

Hafa Adai!

Hopwood dominates statewide thespian competition. **PAGE 2**

DeLeon Guerrero: Many areas turning into junkyards. **PAGE 3**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 57

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2023

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BOE infighting escalates

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Members raise specter of corruption**
» **Meeting set for this Thursday**

Infighting within the 18th CNMI State Board of Education appears to be escalating, this time not merely because of procedural issues but allegations of corruption against two of the board's members.



Borja



Tenorio

With another BOE meeting set this Thursday, March 24, at 10am—after three previous

See BOE on Page 4

'I will stay and finish my job'

Until then, as the saying goes 'Potatoes gonna potato and haters gonna hate.'
—King-Hinds



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Port Authority's Kimberlyn King-Hinds stands firm in her decision to stick out her term as CPA board chair despite questions raised

See JOB on Page 4



TOURISM TURNERS

From left, Derrisa Asao, Aliyah Sablan, Josalyn San Nicolas, and Marcellus Mangartin of Kagman Elementary show off their "tourism turners" during the educational outreach of Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority on March 8, 2023, at their school on Saipan.

MTEC

Peavey: Nov. seen as likely start of CUC's new engine

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is still in the process of finishing the foundation for its new engine at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base and beginning the assembly of that, according to acting CUC executive director Dr.



Peavey

In an interview shortly after the CUC board held an executive session yesterday, Peavey said the new 8.7-megawatt engine came just three and half weeks ago. From preparing the foundation to assembling the engine, Peavey said that's an eight-month process, so it looks like that the new engine will be in-

See PEAVEY on Page 4

Docomo Pacific apologizes and updates subscribers

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Docomo Pacific president and CEO Roderick Boss apologized yesterday for the mobile phone and internet service outage that wreaked havoc on their subscribers in the CNMI and Guam last weekend.

In a letter to subscribers,

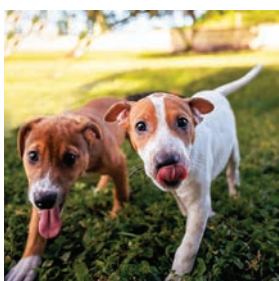
See DOCOMO on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

192

INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan Humane Society is seeking sponsors to assist with startup costs for a veterinary clinic.

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NATION

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen would be making an unofficial stopover in the United States.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

"American Masters: Dr. Tony Fauci," offers a portrait of an unlikely lightning rod: A disease scientist.

PAGE 15



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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Hopwood dominates statewide thespian competition



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hopwood Middle School vice principal Karen Manuel, Lurlene Odal, coach Jesse Sablan, Princess Rigua, Jim Sison, Alyana Marie Rotap, Paula Surima, and coach Janet Sablan.

Hopwood Middle School's Junior International Thespian Society team won in all events at the statewide Junior International Thespian Society competition

last March 18, giving them the opportunity to represent CNMI at the nationals in June this year.

The HMS Thespian representatives include Paula Marie Surima (Monologue), Jim Sison and Seano Pangilinan (Duet Acting), Alyana Marie Rotap (Solo Musical Performance), and the team of Princess Rigua and Lurlene Odal (Duet Musical).

As regional winners, they will represent CNMI in the

International Thespian Society Festival, slated for June 19-23, to be held on the University of Indiana campus in Bloomington.

The regionals last March 18, held at Hopwood Middle School, involved both public and private schools and had students competing throughout the school year in a variety of theatrical categories, in order to qualify for the regional meet.

Hopwood Middle School thanked its coaches, Janet Sablan and Jesse Sablan, for

their dedication and guidance throughout the school year. The International Thespian

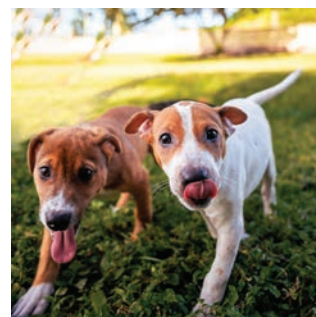
Society, founded in 1929, consists of troupes from various schools. For more information about the International Thespian Society, visit: <https://schooltheatre.org/about/> (PR)

Saipan Humane Society seeks sponsors for veterinary clinic

Saipan Humane Society, a new nonprofit organization developed by Lauren Cabrera of Boonie Flight Project and Guam Animals In Need, is seeking sponsors to assist with startup costs for a veterinary clinic and hosting of visiting veterinarians.

"The No. 1 cause of animal suffering in the CNMI is overpopulation. Too many animals, and not enough homes or resources to care for them. Our primary goal is to provide large-scale spay/neuter services to sustainably reduce the population, and also bring other specialty services to our islands," said Cabrera.

Cabrera is no stranger to large spay/neuter clinics. Through her work with Guam Animals In Need, she helped revive the low-cost spay/neuter clinic there and planned clinics serving 60-80 animals per day. "I'm lucky to have the support and mentorship of



Check out the Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter if you are looking to adopt a dog. There are many friendly pups looking for a home!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

some amazing veterinarians based [in] Guam, and access to a wide network of resources and knowledge to being here," she said.

Saipan Humane Society is seeking sponsorships for their clinic to fund the purchase of necessary surgical equipment, including an anesthesia machine, surgical instruments, and medication. SHS is also requesting sponsors for a dental machine, centri-

fuge for spinning blood, and phone plans.

Additionally, SHS would like to put together a welcoming package for volunteer veterinarians. "These vets could be making money stateside, but choose to volunteer their time to help us. I want to show how much the community appreciates them," she says.

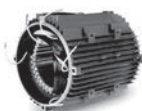
SHS is requesting various donations such as lunches for clinic volunteers/vets, and vouchers for meals and fun activities.

SHS has veterinarian teams coming for spay/neuter clinics in April, May, and June. To get on the waitlist, go to www.tinyurl.com/saipanspay

To reach out regarding sponsorship, donations, or volunteering, email saipanhumane@gmail.com.

Check out the Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter if you are looking to adopt a dog. There are many friendly pups looking for a home! (PR)

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DeLeon Guerrero: Many areas turning into junkyards

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has expressed concern over numerous areas on the island of Saipan that are fast turning into junkyards.

DeLeon Guerrero said it seems like the narrative out there is about making the CNMI a first-class destination, yet there are numerous spots on the island that are essentially considered junkyards.

"If one [were] to take an aerial view map of Saipan, we ought to be concerned," she said during the confirmation hearing Monday for the nomi-

nation of Henry S. Hofschneider to the Commonwealth Zoning Board. The hearing was conducted by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Hofschneider stated that Saipan has a big problem with abandoned properties that are left untended by the landowners or lessees, or whoever owns the property.

DeLeon Guerrero, who chairs the SNILD J&GO Com-



Hofschneider

mittee, said she herself is very much involved in assisting residents requesting for assistance to remove cars that are dumped on their property.

"As we speak today, on Navy Hill, thank you very much to Zoning Office for assisting and also to the mayor's staff for helping a family with a disabled person remove a lot of junk cars on their property, to include a bunch of trash that were left behind for illegal dumping," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero hopes the remaining vehicles left on the property will be fully removed this week—if not sooner, then maybe next week—so the fam-

ily can have some peace on their private land.

Hofschneider served on the Zoning Board from 2006 to 2010. In 2008, he served as its chairman. He is currently special assistant to Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, with whom he worked with when Apatang was still the Saipan mayor.

At the confirmation hearing, Rep. Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho (D-Saipan) raised the issue of blighted properties on Saipan and asked about the status on the enforcement of Saipan local 20-25, which was intended to minimize this. In 2018, then-governor Ralph DLG Torres

signed Saipan Local Law 20-25 into law to hold blighted property owners accountable.

Camacho said a lot of commercial buildings and apartment complexes are not in line or do not conform with this law. The lawmaker asked Hofschneider to look into this when he is confirmed.

Hofschneider said the Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Maintenance Act is a local law and it tasks the Zoning administrator to enforce that law. He said he believes the law tasks the Zoning administrator to promulgate the regulations to carry out the intent of the law.

Hofschneider said the Zoning Board does not have anything to do with promulgating

the regulations to carry out the intent of the law, but the board has a role under that law.

He said when a decision of the administrator is appealed, it goes to the board. "So it is a big concern and I will bring that up to the administrator and the rest of the board members," Hofschneider said.

He acknowledged that there is a need to enforce the law for these landowners or the lessees of the properties to come in and clean them out.

Reps. Diego Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), and Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan) expressed support for Hofschneider's nomination.

24th Taste of the Marianas Food Festival in June

The 24th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in June 2023 on the island of Saipan, featuring some the destination's best cuisine and entertainment.

The Taste of the Marianas is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and is usually held during May Tourism Month. However, this year's festival will be held on June 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2023, in part to coincide with a large influx of visitors anticipated for the Oceania Athletics Association Masters Championship 2023 in late June.

"As one of the most highly anticipated festivals of the year, Taste of the Marianas will

warmly welcome visitors and residents for a taste of the best the Marianas has to offer in terms of taste, entertainment, and island hospitality," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "Mark your calendars for four great Saturdays of Taste in June!"

The annual signature event of the MVA will feature affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. The venue will be announced once confirmed.

For more information or for vendor inquiries, contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarianas.com or (670) 664.3200. (MVA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Time to write!

Come to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 10am to 12pm for our monthly write-in. This is an opportunity to write with others, side-by-side, in parallel inspiration and encouragement. Write your journal. Write your family history. Write your stories novels, poems, or letters. There is no better way to leave a legacy of your experiences and life stories than through writing them down for future generations. Bring your notebooks and pens, or laptop or other writing device and write with us. (PR)

Power service interruption in Kagman III

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Kagman III, from 9am to 1pm, in order for line crew of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to replace two defective primary power poles along Pipinu Ct., across the Marine Beach Pavilions. No water well(s), wastewater facility, or traffic lights will be affected. (PR)

Women's WELLNESS Summit on March 31

The 9th Annual Women's WELLNESS Summit will take place on Friday, March 31, 2023, from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The summit is co-sponsored by the CNMI Women's Association and Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor, in collaboration with community partners from both public and private sectors.

This year's theme is "WELLNESS: Women Entrepreneurs Leading Life & Nourishing Economic Sustainable Solutions."

This summit is part of the 2023 CNMI Women's Month Celebration and is slated as part of the events celebrating and promoting women of the CNMI throughout the year.

The panel discussions planned will focus on women for economy, women for health, women for culture, and women for peace.

Interested attendees are encouraged to register. For more information on the summit, email cnmiwomen@gmail.com/cwa.doiginoef@gmail.com or call (670) 233-8978/9411. (PR)

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Gas prices down by 10 cents

The CNMI was treated to another gas price rollback yesterday, with local oil companies reducing prices by 10 cents.

Mobil Oil Marianas led the way

late yesterday afternoon with another rollback in fuel prices by lowering its prices by 10 cents. Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit today.

As of yesterday afternoon, Mobil Oil Marianas now charges \$5.11 per gallon of its Extra Fuel from \$5.21. Meanwhile, Mobil's Supreme fuel dropped from \$5.66 a gallon to \$5.56 and diesel dropped from \$5.88 a gallon to \$5.73 a gallon.

Members of the CNMI community

were thrilled by this action.

A 29-year-old motorist shared that whenever he sees or hears about a rollback, he gets excited to buy gas.

"I usually try to put off getting gas as much as I can to save cash but when there's a rollback, I feel like 'this is the perfect time to get gas, I

should go,'" he said.

A 27-year-old teacher stated that a gas price rollback is always welcome.

"I love seeing a rollback in fuel prices. I know it helps me, and I'm sure it's also helping others out there like me who are on a budget," she said. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

JOB

From Page 1

why she is still holding out from voluntarily resigning.

When the new administration took office earlier this year, a memorandum was issued for autonomous and semi-autonomous agency board members to voluntarily resign from their posts; this includes CPA.

However, like a few other critical agencies, CPA's board remains intact, with its chair remaining steadfast in upholding her oath to serve as a board member until her term expires in October 2023.

"When I took my oath to serve as a board member, it was an oath to the people to serve CPA to the best of

my abilities in accordance with law. A part of that is a commitment to the Federal Aviation Administration that, regardless of the politics, I will stay and finish the job. This is something that I have personally shared with the governor, who is aware of our endeavors and who have not objected to the efforts that we are undertaking for the benefit of agency," she said.

King-Hinds explained that the CPA board has assured the FAA that it would resolve issues addressed in CPA's previous audit and that she intends to keep her word.

"But for the fact that the board gave its assurances to the FAA that we would see through the completion of addressing the audit findings by fully implementing the corrective action plan that we have sub-

mitted to ensure that our access to federal funding opportunities are not in jeopardy, we would have gladly submitted our courtesy resignation. The fact is, we are still in the process of working toward ensuring that we have a clean audit and that's by strictly monitoring compliance with our new SOPs [standard operating procedures] and reporting to the FAA on a monthly basis our progress," the CPA chair said.

King-Hinds said she continues to communicate with the current administration in terms of progress and she will continue to do so until her term expires.

"Since Inauguration Day, as chair, I have been in direct communications with the governor, providing updates of issues, actions, and prog-

ress, whether it be about projects or policies that we are pursuing. Because I am a member of the board, I am a public figure and, as a public figure, criticism comes with the territory. Mischaracterization of my intent and efforts, 'Trumpy' tactics deployed to malign my character, or having a coronary because I'm doing what I'm doing, are all par for the course. Those moves, however, will

not deter me from living up to my oath and commitment to serve the people to the best of my abilities," King-Hinds said.

"We are almost at the finish line and I will give CPA, this administration and, more importantly, the people the best of who I am. Until then, as the saying goes 'Potatoes gonna potato and haters gonna hate,'" she added.

BOE

From Page 1

meetings were scrapped due to a lack of quorum—an unofficial "white paper" from an anonymous source, the origin of which could not be independently verified, "requests" to investigate possible corruption by officers/members of the CNMI Board of Education. The paper did not indicate to whom the "investigation request" is addressed.

The document, a copy of which was forwarded to *Saipan Tribune* Monday evening, claims that BOE chair Gregory P. Borja and BOE secretary/treasurer Maissee B. Tenorio "may have illegally violated federally-funded Professional Development accounts by donating to non-Public School System organizations."

According to the author of the "white paper," the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, CNMI Office of the Attorney General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are aware of the matter.

When sought for comments, both Borja and Tenorio said that at the time of their donation, it was permissible to donate their unspent PD funds and that they did so for good causes.

Tenorio said in a statement that it was explained to her upon joining the board that she can donate her unspent Professional Development funds to any organization that had an educational purpose. She said she immediately thought of the Know Your Worth competition, which is part of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coalition's Teen Dating Violence Month campaign, which seeks to combat teen dating violence through an art, essay, and spoken word competitions.

"Prior to requesting the transfer of PD funds for the benefit of this worthwhile event, I sought advice from the PSS legal counsel and the Federal Programs director. I was advised that there were no legal or ethical issues

and that the Know Your Worth competition would certainly provide an educational purpose and benefit students directly. Also, I was excited about this opportunity that I openly shared it with the planning committee and others. However, upon the hiring of a new Federal Programs director, it was brought to my attention that it was impermissible to donate these funds unless they remained within PSS. Once I was made aware of this I immediately ceased any request to donate funds outside of PSS."

When asked if Tenorio had been asked to return the funds, she said, "Not that I'm aware of."

On a final note, she said, "My request to transfer unspent PD funds was made with the utmost desire and intent to benefit our students and our community."

As for Borja, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, he said that board members were told, "if there is a point where board members don't spend their funds, they are able to donate money to a cause."

Borja said he donated to the Interact clubs of Saipan, which are Rotary-sponsored clubs of high school students. "Last year, near the end of the fiscal year, I again had unexpended funds, which I donated to those clubs to support their causes. They do beach cleanups, adopt shelters, have events for their schools such as Cultural Day and whatnot—so those are what the funds are for."

He said he feels that his donation supported students in the school system and one private school to support their service clubs.

"I can't get that money back. The money's expended. If they want me to pay it back out of pocket, I'll work out a plan with the school system. That's fine. But again, I think one board member is trying to strong arm other board members in order to allow them to do an unallowable action. That's my take," he said.

He added that "a board member who was not able to get money out is stating that everyone who received money needs to return the money or

they will report it to the Department of Education as misappropriation of funds." Borja did not identify who he was referring to.

Borja said it was after he had already dispersed the funds that board members were told by Federal Programs that it's an unallowable action to donate federal funds to a program outside the school system. "... We had a board member who still wanted to use funds to different organizations—but we were told no, it's an unallowable cost."

Borja, like Tenorio, said they found this out after a new Federal Programs officer came into office.

Borja said he feels like he is being "extorted in order to allow them to do unauthorized action just because I did it unknowingly. Once we found out that we're not allowed to spend money that way, we stopped doing it, we ceased—but they still want to do it."

As for the upcoming meeting, Borja said it's his understanding that they will have a full board present.

The BOE serves as the rule-making authority that oversees and implements policies that govern PSS. It failed to meet the quorum requirement during meetings last Feb. 1, 14, and 24.

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that will reduce the BOE's quorum requirements from four to three members.

The BOE consists of five voting members, but the presence of four voting members shall constitute the necessary quorum to conduct meetings. The bill will amend the Commonwealth Code to allow three voting members to constitute a quorum.

Besides Borja and Tenorio, the other voting members of the BOE are Antonio L. Borja, Andrew L. Orsini, and SGM (ret.) Herman Atalig. The board's last three meetings did not push through after failing to muster quorum. In those three instances, both Orsini and Atalig did not participate in the scheduled meetings.

PEAVEY

From Page 1

stalled and completed to be commissioned by this November.

"The foundation itself will take probably three months," he said.

Peavey said the new engine has a bigger base load because it's a larger engine.

"Because it's new, there would be less maintenance required in the next five years, and it's more fuel-efficient," he said.

The engine, which is worth \$6.4 million, replaces Unit No. 5 engine, which is already 40 years old and is one of the eight generators at Power Plant 1.

When asked what transpired during the session yesterday, Peavey said it was about the Retirement Fund account and the change in bank

signatories since there has been a change in the executive directorship and some of the board memberships.

"We're just getting approval from the board to make the changes," he said.

Board chair Pro Tem Janice A. Tenorio presided over the session.

Former CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho, who has just resigned from the post, earlier stated that the engine's manufacturer, Man B&W, is fully responsible for the transportation and mobilization of the engine to the Power Plant 1, that Man B&W will install the engine and then have it operated, tested, eventually turned over to CUC.

Camacho resigned from his post last Feb. 21, soon after Gov. Arnold I. Palacios expressed his intention to replace him. Camacho is currently on leave and his resignation will take effect this Sunday, March 26.

DOCOMO

From Page 1

he said a cybersecurity incident occurred early last Friday morning and some of the telecommunication company's servers were attacked.

"Immediate failsafe protocols were initiated by our cybersecurity technicians to shut down affected servers and to isolate the intrusion. Your customer data is safe. Our mobile network and fiber service remain unaffected," he said.

Boss says he understands that the Marianas-wide outage has been a huge disruption, especially since the outage extended through the weekend and, for some customers, into the current week.

"I know apologies are only worthy if they are not backed by action," he said.

He went on to inform subscribers of what's being done to restore and reinforce Docomo Pacific's services. "We have mobilized all technical resources 24 x 7. We continue to make progress in addressing the incident; however, this remains an evolving and dynamic situation. All hands in Guam, CNMI, as well as local and federal law enforcement resources, are dedicated to resolving this issue."

For the meantime, Boss said the following is what Docomo Pacific has been doing to keep subscribers connected:

Internet: All internet services have been restored. If you continue

to experience service issues, contact 671-688-2273 (GUAM) or 670-488-2273 (CNMI). You may continue to use your mobile data to tether devices such as laptops and tablets at no additional cost. Credits will be applied to your bill.

Mobile prepaid: All prepaid talk, text, and data are available at no cost. If you are a current prepaid customer, you may continue using the service without load.

Mobile postpaid: Docomo Pacific's Mobile network was isolated and was not impacted. To allow you to power all other devices such as laptops and tablets, your data caps have been removed until further notice.

Entertainment: If you subscribe to dTV+ and are still experiencing service issues, contact Customer Care. Credits will be applied to your bill.

Digital home phone: Credits will be applied to your next bill. If service issues persist, contact Customer Care.

Docomo Pacific stores and call centers are also operating with limited functionality. For non-critical issues, email customer@docomopacific.com.

"Attacks like these cannot be easily predicted or prevented, and I deeply apologize on behalf of Docomo Pacific for the disruption it has caused. Please be assured that I, along with my entire team, will not rest until your services are fully restored and secured. Thank you for your continued understanding, and for your patronage," said Boss.

SSHS Manta Ray Battalion cadets clean up Koblerville Road

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets from the Manta Ray Battalion of Saipan Southern High School were up bright and early last Saturday March 18, to take part in cleaning up of the Koblerville Road.

The cleanup, which was the cadets' first community service for the school year's second semester, saw a total of 63 cadets and two instructors participating.

The cadets were split into two groups. Group 1, which included HQ and Alpha Company, started at the Koblerville Mobile gas station, while Group

2, which included the Bravo, Charlie, and Delta companies, started at the Pavilion Playground in Tottotville.

The cadets were given gloves and trash bags for their use. Once done, the Manta Ray Battalion regrouped at the midpoint across the street from P&A Laundry.

"I'm very happy that a lot of cadets showed up for the cleanup because it was a pretty big project, a long road, and a lot of trash. I'm happy that the cadets are motivated enough to wake up early and stroll down to clean up. It was very nice

seeing everyone having fun and doing their best," said battalion C/CSM Anthony Villagomez.

"The cleanup was very nice and all the cadets sacrificed their time to wake up early, go off and clean the community," says C/2LT Riana Vicente.

For safety purposes, the SSHS' instructors CSM (ret.) Richard Basa and SFC (ret.) Deyna Sunderland were positioned in their vehicles in the middle lane with signs instructing vehicles to slow down and be aware of the cadets cleaning on the shoulders of the road. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 63 cadets and two instructors from the Manta Ray Battalion of Saipan Southern High School took part in cleaning up the Koblerville Road last Saturday March 18.

DOC chief implements internal open-door policy

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Department of Corrections commissioner Anthony Torres aims to tackle head on the issue of low morale within the department, promising to implement changes at DOC that will reverse this.

Upon reviewing the transition report prepared by the DOC transition team for the Palacios-Apatang administration, Torres said learned that morale within his department is relatively low. This can be blamed on many factors, Torres said, including complaints falling on deaf ears.

"I want to make a change and I want to be that change for this department," he said.

Since taking up the position nearly two months ago, Torres said he has implemented some new policies to tackle the issue, including a new open-



Torres

door policy, but officers are still encouraged to follow the chain of command with their concerns.

However, if they feel they aren't being heard and their concerns are not being addressed, Torres said he welcomes his staff to come directly to him about their concerns and issues.

"I want my staff to know that, 'Hey, if you feel you're not being heard through your chain of command, I'm here now.' I want my staff to know that I want to help, I'm here to help. That is why I implemented my new open-door policy," he said.

Torres shared that the reason behind this change is because his goal is to ensure transparency within the department, and ensure that everyone within the department is given the same opportunities and equal treatment under his leadership.

"If you asked me two

years ago if I would return to the CNMI, I would have told you 'no' because of these issues. However, over two years ago, after visiting my family here on Saipan, I realized I could use the knowledge and skills I've acquired in my 20 years serving in various federal and state correctional facilities and penitentiaries to make a change here [and] that is what I'm going to do," he said.

In addition to a new open-door policy, Torres has implemented weekly meetings with all DOC staff where concerns can be addressed, and more.

Torres, who was born on Saipan, began his law enforcement career in 1999 as an adult correctional officer for the Department of Public Safety at Halawa Prison in Honolulu, Hawaii and later joined the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Detention Center Honolulu.

New expiry date for Medicaid Card

Do you currently possess a Medicaid Card expired since March 18, 2020? If so, you now have a new expiration date.

On Aug. 5, 2020, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency notified all Medicaid providers and beneficiaries that benefits will be automatically renewed until the end of the Public Health Emergency (Sec. 6008_USPL116-127). This provision was revised in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 (Sec. 5131_USPL117-328) and gives state agencies flexibility in redetermining eligibility.

As approved by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, a Continuous Coverage Unwinding Timeline provides a definite date for all members affected. The new expiration dates will give members ample time to complete the renewal process and/or transition to other insurance

options. Refer to Continuous Coverage Info-Sheet & Unwinding Timeline for details.

Medicaid will not be redistributing new cards to reflect the new expiration dates. You may submit your application for redetermination earlier than the new expiration date to receive an updated card.

This does not apply to members covered under the Presumptive Eligibility group. Presumptive Eligibility benefits end on May 11, 2023, therefore, you must submit a full Medicaid application and supporting documents to continue your coverage.

All individuals who apply for Medicaid must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, Freely Associated States citizens or a qualified alien who meets the immigration status to be eligible for benefits and must be a resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact or visit our office locations at:

Saipan

Capitol Hill, Gov't. Bldg. 1252

Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
Office Hours: Monday to Thursdays – 7:30am to 1pmpm (Closed on Fridays)

Tinian

Tinian Health Center
Tel: (670) 433-9263/9233
Office Hours: Monday to Friday – 7:30am to 4:30pm

Rota

Rota Health Center
Tel: (670) 532-9461/62
Office Hours: Monday to Friday – 7:30am to 4:30pm

You may send an email to info@cnmimedicare.org for more information.

Application forms are available at: medicaid.cnmi.mp (PR)



MARCH 23, 2023

1 PM - 4:30 PM

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Further Questions?

Call 670-234-8950 ext. 2016 or 670-287-9929/9927

Public comments sought on Sugar Dock reconstruction project

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

Two CNMI environmental agencies are inviting the pub-

lic to comment on the planned reconstruction and dredging of the Sugar Dock and its boat launch in Susupe.

The Bureau of Environmen-

tal and Coastal Quality and Division of Environmental Quality announced in a public notice Monday that the CNMI Department of Public Works

plans to rebuild the Sugar Dock and revitalize the exist-ing boat launch and the public may comment on this proj-ect before it starts. DEQ said

it would be receiving public comments from March 16 until 4:30pm of April 14, 2023.

In their shared notice about the proposed work on the Sugar Dock, BECQ and DEQ said the plan is to demolish the current standing Sugar Dock, excavate the base, and rebuild the dock the same way, just with larger interlocking blocks and adding on a concrete sediment jetty that will help prevent the rapid sand build up, especially at the current boat launching ramp. DPW will be dredging the sand buildup directly north of the Sugar Dock to about -3 feet mean low water to create a new shoreline that will revital-ize the use of the existing boat launching ramp, and allow a 10-year maintenance dredging authorization for the area.

As one of the steps toward

the start of this project, DPW must obtain a Water Quality Certification from BECQ, but before issuing the certifica-tion, BECQ must assure that the project being proposed complies with provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Stan-dards, and not interfere or en-danger aquatic and human life. The public notice stated that, since as the quality, protection, and maintenance of the site are historically in the hands of the people as a legal right, BECQ and DEQ need and are invit-ing the community to share their thoughts.

The project is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and requires the Water Quality Certification from BECQ, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

PSS' Ada and Taylor visit NMTech's Trading Up classes



Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada of the CNMI Public School System and Dr. Jessica Taylor, director of PSS Career & Technical Education, pose with Da'ok Academy students who are enrolled at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute campus in Lower Base.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada of the CNMI Public School System and Dr. Jessica Taylor, who is the director of PSS Career & Technical Education, recently visited Da'ok Academy students at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute campus in Lower Base to check on how a dual PSS-NMTech program is going.

The two PSS officials met with a group of students from PSS Da'ok Academy who are enrolled in the Trading Up program and learned how they are progressing with their courses at NMTech.

The "Trading Up" Program—a collaboration between PSS and NMTech—is

a dual enrollment program where interested PSS students enroll in NMTech classes and receive credit toward graduation and, upon completion of any construction course, also get a nationally recognized certificate from the National Center for Construction and Education Research, among some of the accredited programs that are offered at NMTech.

A group of 12 students from PSS Da'ok Academy are enrolled in the Trading Up: Construction Craft Laborer program. Students are exposed to postsecondary instructional settings and workshops at the NMTech campus four times a week until completion of the

following modular programs: Introduction to Power Tools, Introduction to Construction Drawings, Basic Employability Skills, Properties of Concrete, Building Materials, Fasteners, and Adhesives.

Starting even younger, a class of 17 students from Tanapag Middle School are enrolled in the Trading Up: CORE Fundamentals program—a prerequisite for all NCCER construction courses offered at NMTech. Students as young as 13 learn about Basic Safety, Introduction to Construction Math, Introduction to Hand Tools, Basic Communication Skills, and Orientation to the trade.

"This class helped me pass

my ASVAB test. Some of the things I learned here were on the ASVAB and I knew the answers," said one of the students, MJ, who is a senior at Da'ok Academy.

"This class is preparing us for the real world so we could have something in our life in the future. The things we've learned are things that we could use everyday," said another student, Taisei, who is also a senior at Da'ok Academy.

Both classes started on Oct.26, 2022, which was the beginning of the second quarter and will continue until students have completed the required modules to earn a national certification. (PR/ Saipan Tribune)

SCC webinar focuses on empowering women

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 1st Quarter Professional Development Training webinar, "Women in Business: How Company Leaders can Support Women in the Workplace." The training webinar will take place next Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 10am to 11:30am via Google Meet. Meeting links will be sent out a day before the webinar via email.

The training webinar will be conducted by:

■ MPOWERD Solutions' Demitrah Rasmussen, MNM, CNP, who has five-plus years of youth, volunteer, and cor-

porate relations experience in the nonprofit sector and is a Master of Nonprofit Management, and Certified Nonprofit Professional, and

■ Mona Manglona Jacobs, MSW, NCRI, who has five-plus years of executive-level nonprofit leadership and is a Master of Social Work and Nationally Certified Results-Oriented Management & Accountability Implementer.

To register and for more information, visit <https://forms.gle/JpEECdDHuC-jTQdBu5>, call (670) 234-7150, or email contactus@saipanchamber.org. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on July 14, 2021, **Luise C. Villagomez**, an immediate family member of **Vioncee V. Reyes**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation- CDBG-DR Program, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **Wednesday, April 5, 2023**.

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on February 23, 2021, **Estevan P. Cabrera**, a member of the 19th Tinian Municipal Council, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.


Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of individuals who meet the national objective of urgent need and intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Cabrera is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **Wednesday, April 5, 2023**.

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on July 21, 2021, **Vincent M. & Rose Marie B. Pangelinan**, immediate family members of **Geraldine A. Borja**, an NMHC employee, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Borja is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **Wednesday, April 5, 2023**.

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

USCG, FSM police work together to fight illegal fishing, strengthen skills



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS BREANDAN MULDOWNEY

The USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) makes a port call in Yap during a Federated States of Micronesia patrol on March 13, 2023.

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard and Federated States of Micronesia National Police conducted a successful at-sea engagement to combat illegal fishing in Yap State on March 16, 2023.

The crews of USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) and the FSS *Tosiwo Nakayama* (P901) conducted a joint patrol near Yap State in support of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency's Operation 365, part of the FFA's regional monitoring control and surveillance operations to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Pacific.

"The crew enjoyed conducting a professional exchange including navigation and seamanship training during a close-quarters formation

steaming with our colleagues aboard the FSS *Tosiwo Nakayama* before they pulled into Yap," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider, commanding officer of the *Oliver Henry*.

The *Tosiwo Nakayama* is currently FSM's only active Guardian-class patrol boat. Under the Australian Pacific Maritime Security Program, Australia is delivering 22 Guardian-class Patrol Boats to 12 Pacific Island nations and Timor-Leste. They also provide additional training to enable nations to make the most out of this capability.

The FSM is a sovereign nation with full diplomatic relations, deep ties, and a cooperative relationship with the United States. They participate in an amended Compact

of Free Association with the U.S., under which the FSM and the United States agreed that the U.S. has full authority and responsibility for defense and security matters relating to the FSM. Many FSM citizens also live, work, and study in the U.S. and voluntarily serve in the U.S. Armed Forces at per capita rates higher than many U.S. states.

"The ongoing partnership between the FSM and the U.S. Coast Guard seeks to enhance FSM's sovereignty and capability to combat illicit maritime activity, particularly illegal fishing, to the benefit of all Pacific partners but with a focus on the people of the FSM and their economic and food security needs," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander

of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "We appreciate the efforts of the National Police, the U.S. Embassy, and our Australian Pacific Maritime Security Program partners to make these shared multilateral operations possible to increase regional security and prosperity."

The crew also leveraged time underway while on patrol in the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone for maintenance, Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises, and cutter boat training. The crew is on a four-week expeditionary patrol throughout

Western Oceania.

The *Oliver Henry* is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service.

It homeports in Guam, working with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, which comprises nearly 300 personnel to provide a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard's enduring regional presence in Oceania.

Operation 365 is the Re-

gional Fisheries Surveillance Centre's overarching plan for Regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance operations. OP365 provides comprehensive support to regional surveillance and enforcement efforts in Pacific Island Countries on an ongoing basis. OP365 requires the concerted and consistent effort of all 17 Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency member nations and the four members of the Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group countries, Australia, France, New Zealand, and the United States, to be successful. (USCG)

Registration open for national small business virtual summit in May '23

The U.S. Small Business Administration and SCORE, mentors to America's small businesses and a resource partner of the SBA, announced yesterday that registration for the 2023 National Small Business Week Virtual Summit is now open. The two-day online event will take place from May 2-3, 2023. Attendance is free of charge, but registration is required. To register, visit National Small Business Week Virtual Summit registration (<https://vevents.virtualtradeshows.com/event/NSBWVirtualSummit/register?mcc=SBAPR>).

This year's NSBW Virtual Summit will feature educational workshops presented by event cosponsors, access to federal resources, and networking. A detailed agenda and list of cosponsor speakers will be published at a later date.

"Providing support to small businesses through education, networking, and mentorship is what SBA and SCORE do best," said SBA associate administrator for Communications and Public Liaison Christina Hale. "This annual event has become a cornerstone of National Small Business Week, attended by thousands of entrepreneurs across the country."

"In this rapidly evolving climate for small business owners, SCORE is proud to partner with the SBA on the 2023 National Small Business Week Virtual Summit," said SCORE CEO Bridget Weston. "This summit offers incredibly valuable information, tools, and resources to American small business owners at no cost and in an accessible virtual environment. We look forward to connecting with thousands of entrepreneurs and supporting them on their journeys to success."

For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.sba.gov/NSBW.

ness Week, visit www.sba.gov/NSBW.

About National Small Business Week

For 60 years, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, recognizing the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business and create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. As part of National Small Business Week, the SBA takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from all 50 states and U.S. territories. Every day, they're working to

grow small businesses, create 21st-century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. And in recognizing the changing face of America, the SBA's National Small Business Week awards honor individuals and businesses that reflect our nation's rich diversity.

About SCORE

SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors, is dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals. Since 1964, SCORE has provided education and mentorship to more than 11 million entrepreneurs. SCORE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a resource partner of the SBA. (SBA)

Lady Eagles Club hosts second Zumba Fun Day



LEIGH GASES

Some members of the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club and its president Racquel Floyd, far left, participate in a Zumba session led by M2 Fitness during the club's second annual Zumba Fun Day at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai last Saturday in celebration of International Women's Month.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Maga'haga Lady Eagles Club hosted its second annual Zumba Fun Day at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai last Saturday in celebration of International Women's Month.

Throughout the day, over 100 women and some men sweated and danced to the beat of Zumba music led by Zumba instructors Zin Abby Whang and Zin Shellan Sarmiento and M2 Fitness instructor Mary Grace Bautista.

Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club president Racquel Floyd said the event was intended "to celebrate Women's Month

and at the same time to raise funds for our socio-civic projects and community services."

Some of the club's projects so far include adopting and maintaining the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, refurbishing a bus stop in Koblerville, and cleanups.

Throughout the day last Saturday, participants were treated to a fun day of dancing and raffle prizes—the most of which was worth \$300. The club also presented plaques of appreciation to the Zumba instructors after the event.

Floyd thanked the sponsors of the event, Saipan Maga'Lahi Eagles Club, the club's Guam District, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, SuperTech,

Coreplus, SM Shein Marianas, RHF Marketing Services, Saipan Ice and Water, Vision, Best Deals, New Chang Ming Market, McDonald's of Saipan, and Island Rent-a-Car. She also thanked the members for their support and donations as well.

Bautista said in between dancing that she was there to support Women's Month and to continue to promote a healthy and fit lifestyle. "We're very happy that we were invited to be part of this event," she said.

The Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club is a nonprofit all-women socio-civic organization chartered just last year. The club's motto is "service through strong sisterhood."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 17th, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"CHCC INPATIENT ROOM RENOVATIONS (COORDINATION, OVERSIGHT, MONITORING AND CONSTRUCTION) FOR CHC HOSPITAL / INPATIENT DEPARTMENT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/MSO-009

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APR 17TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES-STOCK ITEMS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 57Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Canada is eating our lunch on needed immigration

There's a reason many companies zealously try to safeguard and retain talent, going so far as to build in bonus-payback schemes and legally dubious non-compete clauses into contracts: It is time-consuming and complicated to train people well, and the people are ultimately any company's most valuable asset.

That simple lesson unfortunately doesn't seem to have been learned at the macro scale by our leaders in Washington, who have stood by for decades as a clunky and ineffective immigration system has hampered foreign graduates' ability to remain in the country after receiving years of often highly technical education here. Insofar as international students and graduates have integrated into and grown crucial sectors of the U.S. economy, research and culture, they've done so despite and not because of our burdensome visa systems.

While long true, the situation has only grown more acute in recent years, as immigration bureaucracies get more gummed up, backlogs grow and the consequences of COVID-19 continue to manifest. A recent analysis by the Niskanen Center, using data from Canadian immigration authorities, found that just between 2017 and 2021, approximately 45,000 postsecondary graduates of U.S. schools, the vast majority of them international, were invited to obtain permanent residency up north.

That's just one four-year period, involving one additional country that makes immigration easier and more attractive. Thousands more return to their countries of origin, or are recruited to positions in other parts of the world. Many of these graduates would like nothing more than to remain here and build out personal and professional lives in the country they've built an affinity to over the course of their education, and we reward that commitment by turning them away.

It's a situation that the United States can no longer afford, as we face shortages of certain types of high-skill labor and an aging population. Congress must streamline and modernize the outdated visa system. It's already a day late and a Canadian dollar short, but the cost of inaction is only going to compound.

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The many ways to pledge allegiance to our country

Stories such as Marissa Barnwell's make me uncomfortable. Marissa, a 15-year-old honor student at River Bluff High School in Lexington, South Carolina, was hurrying to class on Nov. 29, 2022, when, she says, a teacher yelled at her, grabbed her arm, pushed her against a wall and then hustled her down to the principal's office.

Marissa's offense? She kept walking to class while the Pledge of Allegiance was being broadcast over the school's loudspeaker.

Marissa told New York Times columnist Pamela Paul that when she asserted that she was exercising her First Amendment right not to participate in the pledge, the principal responded: "Don't you love this country?"

There may be more to this story than a student's failure to honor the Pledge of Allegiance. Marissa, who is Black, told Paul that she was inspired by pro football quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the national anthem and that she sees declining to recite the pledge as a way of saying that "I'm aware of the way American society treats Black people, that we are not all treated equally, with liberty or with justice."

As if to illustrate this point, the security camera video of the incident appears to show white students scurrying to their classes during the pledge without incident. Marissa's family contends that she was singled out because she is Black. If this is true, Marissa has a valid rationale for declining to recite the pledge.

But there are many reasons to object to the Pledge of Allegiance. Some citizens object to its repetitive, ritualistic recitation at the beginnings of school days, P.T.A. meetings, city council meetings and school board meetings. This overuse, they claim, drains the pledge of meaning and puts it in danger of fading into mindless groupthink.

Others recognize that the pledge is a latecomer to our patriotic lore. Can you imagine Ben Franklin leading the fractious Constitutional Convention in a rote pledge every morning, with all members obediently resting their hands over their hearts? I can't.

In fact, the pledge was invented in 1892, largely in an effort to enforce Americanism on new waves of immigrants who were less white and more foreign than previous waves. The pledge became a litmus test for patriotism. Citizens who declined to pledge—for religious reasons, for example—were

By **JOHN M. CRISP**
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



sometimes ostracized, fired from their jobs, beaten and killed.

Citizens who are atheists object to the pledge's phrase "under God," which was added in 1954 in a McCarthyist response to the godlessness of communism. Even religious people might object to the term "under." If we are "under God" in the same way that Iran is "under Allah," America has gone terribly astray.

So there are plenty of reasons why Americans may object to reciting the pledge. But the real soul of Americanism is that Americans don't need a reason at all. A citizen should be able to decline to recite the pledge, on any occasion or on all occasions, without having her patriotism called into question.

In fact, good citizens can express allegiance to their country in many ways. For example, they could join the U.S. Navy, which is what I did. They could support their public schools. They could study our history carefully. They could vote regularly. They could commit to accepting the results of our elections. They could respect the integrity of our laws, down to their finest details.

And they could pay their taxes with a little less griping, moaning and evasion. After all, a country is no more than a group of people—brought together by geography, religion, ethnicity or, in our case, an idea—who pool their resources in order to create a society. Taxes are merely the cost of making that society work.

But the real point of living in the land of the free is that we should not have to prove our patriotic bona fides to other people. Few things are more un-American than the coercive patriotism of those who wish to force on others their personal version of what it means to be a loyal American.

A citizen should be able to decline to recite the pledge, on any occasion or on all occasions, without having her patriotism called into question.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Being multilingual is no longer a liability for students. That's good for the US

The Netflix show “Emily in Paris” portrays a young Midwesterner struggling to adapt to a new culture after a serendipitous promotion sends her to France. She got the job despite not speaking French, a highly unlikely scenario in real life.

The plot might have been more believable to me if the character were multilingual because I speak English, Spanish, and French. Speaking and writing a second language are skills that U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona frequently touts as a superpower that can beget success in an increasingly global workforce. Encouraging students to become multilingual is one of his six focus areas, and he is pushing an initiative to transform the U.S. education system.

Such a national focus on boosting bilingualism is unusual, considering that 78% of U.S. residents speak only English. But it would mean finally encouraging millions of students whose first language is not English to retain their fluency while learning English. It would also emphasize the idea that native English speakers can expand career opportunities by learning a second language. However, it also would require making some radical changes in both attitudes and curriculum if the dream of churning out more bilingual students is to become a reality.

“We must evolve our schools,” Cardona said during a press call earlier this month, adding that the White House is proposing about \$125 million in the upcoming budget to support bilingual programs that include expanding the pipeline for language teachers and grants to states for more foreign language instruction.

These funding commitments are a good start for ambitious proposals that are quite a departure from what we’ve seen from past Education secretaries. It’s taken educators far too long to see the benefits of multilingualism when so many U.S. students speak a second language at home that could be formally taught in conjunction with English for full proficiency in both languages.

Cardona’s tone is also strikingly different from that of educational leaders in the recent past. For decades, students whose first language isn’t English have been viewed as a liability, and were discouraged from using any language but English in the classroom. Nativists decried bilingual education as watering down of U.S. culture.

Such sentiments prompted the passage of Proposition 227 in California in 1998, eliminating bilingual education and requiring public schools to teach students whose first language is not English in English. It was repealed in 2016.

Now, Cardona is asking that we look at these students who speak multiple languages as “gifted with assets.” Such a shift in perspective is long overdue and comes at a time of increasing interest in teaching U.S. students to become proficient in a second language, as shown by the popularity of dual language immersion programs. In 2010, there were about 1,000 dual language programs in U.S. public schools, which grew to more than 3,600 by 2021, according to the American Councils Research Center.

Thanks in large part to dual immersion programs, California leads other states when it comes to foreign language instruction, with more than 57,500 students considered literate in at least two languages in the 2021-22 school year. The state Department of Education has set a goal of enrolling half of K-12 students in programs to become proficient in two or more languages by 2030 and 75% by 2040.

Cardona wants the nation to go much further: to the point where every K-12 student is expected to become literate in a second language.

It’s not surprising that Cardona, whose first language is Spanish, raves about the benefits of bilingualism. He says it helped propel him to become Connecticut’s youngest school principal, and, years later, to his current post overseeing the U.S. education system. It wasn’t easy. Cardona’s Puerto Rican parents spoke their native language at home and he struggled to learn English as a kindergartner.

Undoubtedly, the biggest obstacle in helping more students achieve proficiency in a second language is the lack of bilingual teachers, who are considered foreign language instructors and typically must earn bilingual certification. Forty-four states could not fill all their foreign language teacher vacancies, a 2017 study commissioned by Congress found. Schools nationwide have struggled to fill vacancies in recent years, especially those for foreign language teachers.

Under the Global California 2030 initiative, the state has a goal

By **MINERVA CANTO**

Los Angeles Times

Minerva Canto is an editorial writer focusing on education, healthcare and other social issues. She is a longtime journalist whose work explores the places where politics, policies and people converge.



to hire about 2,000 additional credentialed bilingual language teachers by 2029, which would mean about double what it had in 2019. In addition, the state Department of Education is looking at increasing partnerships with programs such as the Migrant Education Mini-Corps Program to expand the pipeline of bilingual teachers.

Clearly, it will take years to create and staff bilingual programs in every public school. But multiplying the number of multilingual students as Cardona envisions will take more than just a shift in public view about the benefits of bilingualism.

The U.S. is one of the few countries considered monolingual, in comparison with most European countries where students begin learning a second language by the age of 9, according to the Pew Research Center. In 2017, the U.S. Department of Defense sponsored the National K-12 Foreign Language Enrollment Survey to determine the state of foreign language instruction in K-12 public schools. It found that only 11 states required foreign language study to graduate.

The fact that most Americans speak only English puts our country at an economic disadvantage and threatens national security if we cannot understand and analyze potential threats such as terrorism or contagions. A lack of multilingual speakers in the U.S. has prompted the Department of Defense to partner with eight states to develop bilingual instruction programs. Certainly, English-only speakers cannot expect to obtain jobs like the one that took Netflix’s Emily to Paris if they don’t have the necessary language skills. That’s a fantasy that exists only in Hollywood.

Ex-juvenile lifer shows we can’t give up on kids

Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, who’s grappling with an increase in youth crime, and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who’s pushing an expansive juvenile detention center, should talk to Antonio Howard. In truth, most adults could benefit from his insights on young people in trouble, and the myriad of mistakes grown folks make with them.

Howard, an artist, writer, teacher and activist from Erie, is not a kid. He’s 47. But in 1992, he received a mandatory life sentence for a crime he committed when he was 15.

He and two other teenagers robbed a cabdriver. One of the three—not Howard—fatally shot the driver. As a participant in the crime, Howard was convicted of murder under Pennsylvania’s conspiracy statute.

His life had paralleled those of many young people in Pittsburgh, Detroit or Chicago, marked by poverty, abuse, chaos and neglect. Everything around him, even the streets he walked, told him he was nothing and would remain nothing. He didn’t understand his past or expect a future.

“I was writing rap songs throughout my trial,” he told me last week. “I had no concept of what was going on.”

During the 1990s, Pennsylvania led the nation in juvenile lifers, with 500 people serving mandatory life sentences for crimes they committed when they were too young to legally smoke cigarettes. In 1992, Howard became one of them.

Change and affirmation

Entering the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh, Howard learned to protect himself from adult inmates and guards, who could abuse and dehumanize him at-will. “I was too busy fighting for my life to understand what a life sentence meant,” he said.

A few months later, a nun gave him a book: “The autobiog-

raphy of Malcolm X.” Reading about Malcolm’s transformation in prison led him to books on philosophy, psychology, history, Shakespeare and much more. He earned his GED, tutored inmates and trained as a paralegal.

In 1999, Howard began to paint. Self-taught, he eventually finished four murals at the State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon, one in the visiting room.

Painting gave him a way to express and affirm himself. “When I started to paint, people no longer called me the N-word or a piece of sh--,” he said. “I was the artist, the guy who could paint. It added a modicum of humanity to my name. I was doing my thing, creating something people could appreciate.”

In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court finally ruled that mandatory life sentences for juveniles were unconstitutional. Most of Pennsylvania’s juvenile lifers were either re-sentenced or released. After serving nearly 27 years in prison, Howard was paroled in 2018.

A new life

After he went home, Erie Arts & Culture commissioned him to paint a 1,300-square-foot mural at Manus Sunoco, Erie’s only Black-owned gas station. Since then, Howard has done more than a dozen other murals, with grants and awards from Erie Arts and Culture and the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. His wife, Sarah Howard, teaches art at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House.

Aside from painting and working as a paralegal, Howard is a public speaker who published two books: “When a child is worth more than the worst mistake he ever made,” and “A prisoner’s introduction to William Shakespeare.” He participates in community efforts to reduce gun violence, the Erie County Pardon Project, and Youth Leadership of Erie, which honored him for public service.

By **JEFFERY GERRITT**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pulitzer Prize winner Jeffery Gerritt is the editorial page editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.



Pennsylvania is far better for having Antonino Howard in Erie, instead of a state prison, where he would cost taxpayers more than \$40,000 a year. But how many others like him have we destroyed, and who created a world where young people have to shoot someone to get respect or attention?

Listening to youth

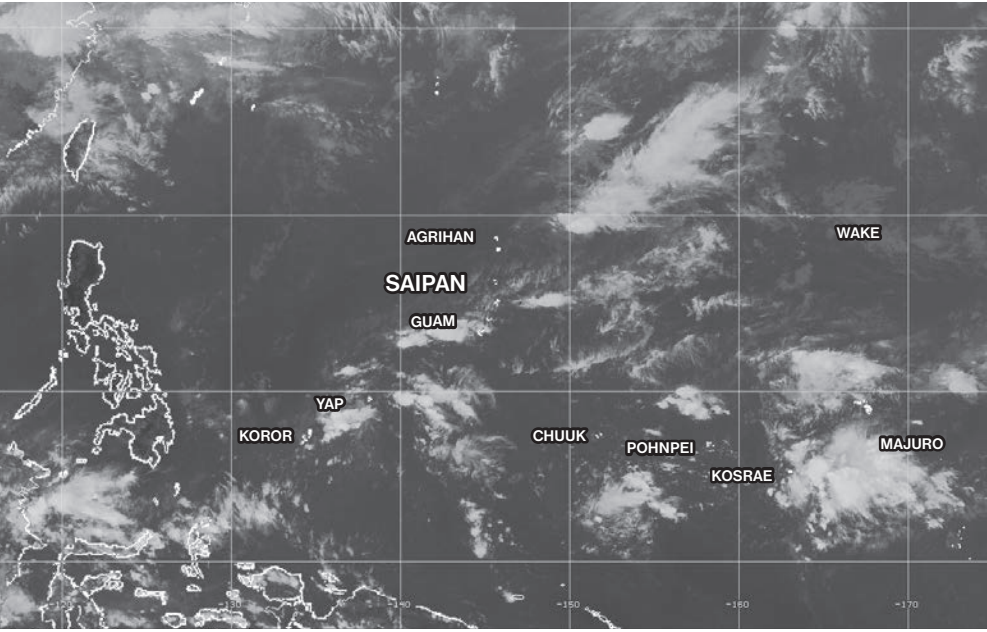
Adult shot-callers should understand why kids don’t respect them, why they are wary of cops, and what pushes them into crime, drugs and gangs. If politicians and policymakers want them to say no to negative activities, they need to provide positive alternatives and opportunities.

Locking up kids and throwing away the keys, or dismissing their voices, is the Pennsylvania way. It’s why the state led the nation in incarcerating children. It’s why the mayor won’t let young people and ex-offenders drive the city’s anti-violence initiative. It’s why the county executive wants to replace a shuttered 130-bed juvenile detention center.

That’s not to minimize youth crime. Bullets fired by kids are just as deadly as bullets fired by adults, even if a child’s more impulsive, unstable brain bears less responsibility. But whenever you want to give up on young people, or wonder why it matters, remember Antonio Howard.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:01 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be seen east of Saipan. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:55 AM	6:04 PM	-
Wednesday	6:37 AM	7:01 PM	-
Thursday	7:18 AM	7:57 PM	-
Friday	7:59 AM	8:53 PM	-
Saturday	8:41 AM	9:49 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	63° / 36°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 73°	
Honolulu	Showers/Wind	79° / 70°	
London	Sunny	54° / 42°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 50°	
Manila	Sunny	94° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°	
Miami	Cloudy	82° / 76°	
New York	Sunny	61° / 42°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	77° / 62°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	54° / 38°	
Busan	Showers	67° / 58°	
Rome	Rain	60° / 49°	
Salem	Cloudy	66° / 53°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 44°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	62° / 43°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:03 AM	High Tide	-0.03	
8:16 AM	Low Tide	1.97	
2:32 PM	High Tide	0.41	
8:17 PM	Low Tide	1.98	

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Heavenly Bites brings pares to Sugar King Park

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Local foodies are expected to make a beeline toward Sugar King Park with Heavenly Bites' recent introduction of the ubiquitous Filipino street food called pares.

Pares, also known as beef pares, literally means "to pair" and is Filipino-style braised beef stew that comes with garlic fried rice, and a bowl of soup. It's also offered as a noodle dish.

"We are introducing pares into our menu to add more variety in the food we serve to the customers. It's a new taste for everyone to try. This new menu item includes beef, fried rice, and soup for a complete meal to satisfy everyone," said snack bar owner Lherie Galvan.

And since it's a very hearty and complete meal, Heavenly Bites' loyal customers have raved about the addition of pares in the food stall's everyday menu.

"They are surprised by the sweet and savory flavor of this new item. It's actually like an asado dish. Our customers come back for more to satisfy both their hunger and their cravings," added Galvan.

Aside from the new blockbuster item, Heavenly Bites has also added potato twister to its menu and the crispy snack has been an immediate go-to food for teenagers that regularly patronize the business.



Beef pares is Filipino-style braised beef stew that can either come with rice or with noodles.

MARK RABAGO

Heavenly Bites' potato twister comes in two flavors—cheese and sour cream onion.

Along with their longtime surefire hits like shawarma, barbecue, and deep fried Oreos, Galvan is confident that their new items like pares and potato twister will again put Heavenly Bites on the food map of Saipan.

Asked how Heavenly Bites

has dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, the entrepreneur said they just waited it out and is glad that tourists are gradually coming back to the island.

"The pandemic has caused a halt with the tourists coming and it has made it difficult to be a part of some events, but now that the pandemic has come to a slow, there are many more

customers who are coming out to see what's new since the pandemic occurred."

She also thanked the NMI Museum for hosting a new event that helped small businesses like her thrive.

"Friday at the Museum has given us an increase in recognition. The event has been able to boost our outreach for customers to give our food a try."

The astronomical rise in ingredients for food the past few months, meanwhile, she admitted has been a challenge.

"We've dealt with the rise in prices of ingredients by increasing the price of our menu items slightly."

Heavenly Bites opened in June 2021 after Galvan decided to go into the food business after losing her job in the hospitality industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heavenly Bites is open from 11am to 7:30pm at Sugar King Park, Wednesday-Sunday. Tuesday they're open only until 4pm as they also have a stall at the night market of Marianas Lighthouse from 5pm to 9pm. They can be reached at (670) 286-2370, heavenlybites670@gmail.com, Heavenlybites670saipan on Facebook, and heavenlybitespn on Instagram.

South Korea to restore Japan's trade status to improve ties

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Tuesday his government will move to restore Japan's preferential trade status as he pushes to resolve history and trade disputes with Japan despite domestic opposition.

In lengthy, televised comments during a Cabinet Council meeting, Yoon defended his moves, saying that leaving ties with Japan as fraught as they are would be neglecting his duty because greater bilateral cooperation is vital to resolve diverse challenges facing Seoul.

"I thought it would be like neglecting my duty as president if I had also incited hostile nationalism and anti-Japan sentiments to use them for domestic politics while leaving behind the current, grave international political situation," Yoon said.

He said the need to boost ties with Japan has grown because of North Korea's advancing nuclear program, the intensifying U.S.-China strategic rivalry and global supply chain challenges.

South Korea and Japan have deep economic and cultural ties and are both key U.S. allies that together host about 80,000 U.S. troops. But their relations have often fluctuated mainly due to issues stemming from Japan's

1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

At the center of the recent impasse was the 2018 South Korean court rulings that ordered two Japanese companies to compensate some of their former Korean employees for forced labor during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. Japan refused to accept the rulings, saying all compensation issues had already been settled when the two countries normalized ties in 1965.

The history disputes spilled over to other issues, with the two countries downgrading each other's trade status. Japan also tightened controls on exports to South Korea, while Seoul threatened to terminate a military intelligence-sharing pact.

After months of negotiations with Japan, Yoon's government earlier this month announced it would use local funds to compensate the forced laborer victims involved in the 2018 lawsuits without requiring contributions from the Japanese companies.

Last week, Yoon traveled to Tokyo for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, during which they agreed to resume regular visits

and economic security talks.

Ahead of the summit, the South Korean government said Japan had agreed to lift export controls on South Korea, and that South Korea would also withdraw its complaint to the World Trade Organization once the curbs are removed. They said the two countries would continue talks on restoring each other's trade status as well.

Yoon's push has triggered protests from some of the forced labor victims, their supporters and opposition political parties who have demanded direct compensation from the Japanese companies and a direct apology from Tokyo over the forced labor. A public survey suggested about 60% of Koreans opposed Yoon's measures to resolve the forced labor issue.

In his Cabinet Council remarks, Yoon said he will order his trade minister to begin taking legal steps needed to reinstate Japan in a "whitelist" of nations receiving preferential trade status.

He said both South Korea and Japan must remove obstacles that hinder the improvement of bilateral ties. "If South Korea preemptively eliminates obstacles, Japan will surely reciprocate," he said.

WH economic report: Money for child care would help growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is making the case for more government support for child care programs in an economic report that it released Monday, drawing on extensive research to say additional spending would improve kids' lives, increase the quality of early childhood schooling and enable more women to hold jobs.

The analysis dovetails with President Joe Biden's political messaging as ideological lines are being drawn for the 2024 election. Democrats have sought to put a greater focus on Republican lawmakers who have restricted access to abortions in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision and called for mandating that impoverished parents be employed in order to receive government aid.

The White House Council

of Economic Advisers put together the analysis on child care as part of its broader annual economic report of the president. This year's 513-page report also explores the financial dangers created by climate change, global partnerships, reforms to make college more accessible, the online economy, cryptocurrencies and ways to add workers to the U.S. economy that include increased levels of immigration.

The administration is making a fuller case that its policies are better for overall economic growth, not just in terms of social fairness. That applies to international trade and the shift toward renewable energy sources, but programs aimed at children tend to produce long-term benefits that more than cover their price tags.

"The president's ap-

proach is that we need to be investing in our children, because we know that pays for itself multiple times over," Cecilia Rouse, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, said in an interview.

Rouse added that government support for child care would help ensure a "robust labor force" because parents are often prevented from working due to its costs. Child care expenses can overwhelm their earnings, meaning that parents are better off staying unemployed or working part-time even if doing so can diminish their long-term earning potential. This reflects a problem in the U.S. economy that the private sector has been unable to fix on its own, leading to the Biden administration's push for greater government involvement.

Nation

US tells China not to overread likely Taiwan president visit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is putting out the word in advance that an expected unofficial stopover in the United States by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen would fall in line with recent precedent and should not be used as a pretext by Beijing to step up aggressive activity in the Taiwan Strait.

In recent weeks, senior U.S. officials in Washington and Beijing have underscored to their Chinese counterparts that transit visits through the United States during broader international travel by the Taiwanese president have been routine in recent years, according to a senior administration official. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

In such visits in recent years, Tsai has met with members of Congress and the Taiwanese diaspora and has been welcomed by the chairperson of the American Institute in Taiwan, the U.S. government-run nonprofit that carries out unofficial relations with Taiwan.

Tsai transited through the United States six times between 2016 and 2019 before slowing international travel



In this photo released by the Taiwan Presidential Office, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen speaks by phone with the Czech Republic's President elect Petr Pavel in Taipei, Taiwan, Jan. 30, 2023.

with the coronavirus pandemic. In reaction to those visits, China rhetorically lashed out against China and Taiwan.

The Biden administration is trying to avoid a replay of the heavy-handed response by China that came after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., visited Taiwan last year.

Following Pelosi's August visit, Beijing launched mis-

siles over Taiwan, deployed warships across the median line of the Taiwan Strait and carried out military exercises near the island. Beijing also suspended climate talks with the U.S. and restricted military-to-military communication with the Pentagon.

Beijing sees official American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence

permanent, a step U.S. leaders say they don't support. Pelosi was the highest-ranking elected American official to visit the island since Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1997. Under the

"one China" policy, the U.S. recognizes Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan but has maintained that Taipei is an important partner in the Indo-Pacific.

U.S. officials are increasingly worried about China's long-stated goals of unifying Taiwan with the mainland and the possibility of war over Taiwan. The self-ruled island democracy is claimed by Beijing as part of its territory. The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which has governed U.S. relations with the island, does not require the U.S. to step in militarily if China invades, but makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status by Beijing.

The difficult U.S.-China relationship has only become more complicated since Pelosi's visit.

Last month, President Joe

Biden ordered a Chinese spy balloon shot out of the sky after it traversed the continental United States. And the Biden administration in recent weeks has said that U.S. intelligence findings show that China is weighing sending arms to Russia for its ongoing war in Ukraine, but it does not have evidence that suggests Beijing has decided to follow through on supplying Moscow.

The Biden administration postponed a planned visit to Beijing by Secretary of State Antony Blinken following the balloon controversy, but has signaled it would like to get such a visit back on track.

The White House on Monday also said officials are in talks with China about possible visits by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo focused on economic matters. Biden has also said he expects to soon hold a call with China's Xi Jinping.

Biden issues first veto, taking on new Republican House

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden issued the first veto of his presidency Monday in an early sign of shifting White House relations with the new Congress since Republicans took control of the House in January — a move that serves as a prelude to bigger battles with GOP lawmakers on government spending and the nation's debt limit.

Biden sought to kill a Republican-authored measure that would ban the government from considering environmental impacts or potential lawsuits when making investment decisions for people's retirement plans. In a video released by the White House, Biden said he vetoed the measure because it "put at risk the retirement savings of individuals across the country."

His first veto represents a more confrontational approach at the midway of Biden's term in office, as he faces a GOP-controlled House that is eager to undo parts of his policy legacy and investigate his administration and his family. Complicating matters for Biden, several Democratic senators are up for re-election next year in conservative states, giving

them political incentive to put some distance between them and the White House.

The measure vetoed by Biden would have effectively reinstated a Trump-era ban on federal managers of retirement plans considering factors such as climate change, social impacts or pending lawsuits when making investment choices.

The veto could also help calm some anger from environmentalists who have been upset with the Biden administration for its recent decision to greenlight the Willow oil project, a massive and contentious drilling project in Alaska.

"The president vetoed the bill because it jeopardizes the hard-earned life savings of cops, firefighters, teachers, and other workers," White House spokesperson Robyn Patterson said.

But critics say so-called environmental, social and governance investments allocate money based on political agendas, such as a drive against climate change, rather than on earning the best returns for savers. Republicans in Congress who pushed the measure said environmen-

tal or social considerations in investments by the government are just another example of being "woke."

"In his first veto, Biden just sided with woke Wall Street over workers," House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., tweeted on Monday. "Tells you exactly where his priorities lie." He said "it's clear Biden wants Wall Street to use your retirement savings to fund his far-left political causes."

Biden's veto is likely to prevail. Just three Democrats in Congress — one in the House, and two in the Senate — supported Republicans in the matter, making it unlikely a two-thirds majority in both chambers could be assembled to overcome Biden's veto.

Rep. Jared Golden, D-Maine, was the sole Democrat to back the resolution in the House, while Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., supported it in the Senate. Golden is a perennial target of Republicans seeking to oust him from his conservative district, while Tester and Manchin are both up for re-election next year.

Trump legal woes force another moment of choosing for GOP

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—From the moment he rode down the Trump Tower escalator to announce his first presidential campaign, a searing question has hung over the Republican Party: Is this the moment to break from Donald Trump?

Elected Republicans have wavered at times — whether it was Trump's condemnation of John McCain's war record, his racist attack against a Mexican-American judge, his sexually predatory language caught on video, his alleged extramarital affairs, his decision to side with Russian President Vladimir Putin over U.S. intelligence, his promotion of false allegations of election fraud and his incitement of a violent mob that threatened the lives of lawmakers in both parties.

But after almost eight years of near-constant scandal, Republicans have ultimately rallied behind Trump over and over and over again.

Now, on the eve of a new presidential campaign season, that loyalty is being tested anew as Trump prepares for the possibility that he may soon become the first former U.S. president charged with a crime. New York prosecutors are wrapping up their probe into whether Trump engaged in an illegal hush money scheme involving a

porn actress.

"This is another moment — not just this indictment, but the others likely to follow — where Republicans have the opportunity to break with Trump," said Sarah Longwell, a vocal Republican Trump critic and founder of the Republican Accountability Project. "If they fail to do so, they'll have no one to blame but themselves when Trump is the nominee again."

So far, at least, the vast majority of the Republican Party appears to have made its choice.

As charges loom, many party leaders have begun to defend the former president — even as other Republicans with far less baggage line up against him in the nascent 2024 Republican presidential primary.

Former Vice President Mike Pence, a likely presidential contender, said over the weekend that Americans don't want to see Trump indicted. Another 2024 Republican prospect, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, said there is a sense that the former president is being unfairly attacked. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a frequent Trump critic also eyeing a White House bid, also said New York prosecutors may be unfairly prosecuting Trump.

There are cracks in such

support, however.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump's strongest prospective rival, offered a mixed assessment when asked to address the potential indictment on Monday.

"I don't know what goes into paying hush money to a porn star to secure silence over some type of alleged affair," DeSantis said as some in the audience laughed uncomfortably. "But what I can speak to is that if you have a prosecutor who is ignoring crimes happening every single day in his jurisdiction and he chooses to go back many many years ago to try to use something about porn star hush money payments, that's an example of pursuing a political agenda and weaponizing the office. And I think that's fundamentally wrong."

The ordeal has pushed Republicans back into an uncomfortably familiar place -- playing defense for Trump as he grapples with another scandal. The situation dominated the conversation at the House GOP conference in Orlando, where dozens of congressional Republicans gathered this week.

Many hoped to focus on the party's legislative priorities and achievements three months into the House majority. Instead, they faced repeated questions about the implications of Trump's latest legal woes.

World

Japan, China leaders visit rival capitals in Ukraine war

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida began a surprise visit to Ukraine early Tuesday, hours after Chinese President Xi Jinping arriving in neighboring

Russia for a three-day visit. The dueling summits come as the longtime rivals are on diplomatic offensives. Kishida will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Ukrainian capital.

He will “show respect to the courage and patience of the Ukrainian people who are standing up to defend their homeland under President Zelenskyy’s leadership, and show solidarity

and unwavering support for Ukraine as head of Japan and chairman of G-7,” during his visit to Ukraine, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in announcing his trip to Kyiv.

At the talks, Kishida will show his “absolute rejection of Russia’s one-sided change to the status quo by invasion and force, and to affirm his commitment to defend the rules-based international order,” the ministry’s statement said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warmly welcomed Xi to the Kremlin on a visit both nations describe as an opportunity to deepen their “no-limits friendship.” Japanese public television channel NTV showed Kishida riding a train from Poland heading to Kyiv. His surprise trip to Ukraine comes just hours after he met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, and the week after a breakthrough summit with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yoel.

In New Delhi, Kishida called for developing and Global South countries to raise their voices to defend the rules-based international order and help stop Russia’s war. Japan, which has territorial disputes over islands with both China and Russia, is particularly concerned about the close relationship between Beijing and Moscow, which have conducted joint military exercises near Japan’s coasts. Kishida, who is to chair the Group of Seven summit in May, is the only G-7 leader who hasn’t visited Ukraine and was under pressure to do so at home. U.S. President Joe Biden took a similar route to visit Kyiv last month, just before the first anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Garbage: In Paris streets, heaps of it become protest symbol

PARIS (AP)—Garbage. Heaps, mounds and piles of it are growing daily—and in some places standing higher than a human being.

A strike by Paris garbage collectors, which begins its 16th day on Tuesday, is taking a toll on the renowned aesthetics of the French capital, a veritable blight on the City of Light.

“I prefer Chanel to the stink,” joked Vincent Salazar, a 62-year-old artistic consultant who lives in a tony Left Bank neighborhood. A pile of garbage sits at the corner of his building overlooking the Luxembourg Gardens.

“I’ve seen rats,” he said.

But like many nonchalant and strike-hardened Parisians, Salazar doesn’t mind.

“I’m fortunate to live here, but I’m 200% behind these guys,” Salazar said. “They’re smelling it all day long,” he said, though “it” wasn’t precisely the word

he used. “They should get early retirement.”

He is among the majority of French who, polls show, oppose President Emmanuel Macron’s decision to raise the retirement age by two years, from 62 to 64 for most and from 57 to 59 for garbage collectors.

Macron rammed the showcase legislation of his second term through Parliament last week — without a vote, thanks to a special constitutional article. On Monday, the government won two no-confidence motions put forth by angry lawmakers. The bill is now considered adopted.

But garbage got wrapped up in the politics. And neither unions organizing protests nor some citizens are prepared to back down.

Posters showing a digitally altered image of Macron atop a garbage heap — or collecting garbage himself — have

made the rounds on social networks.

The Socialist mayor of Paris, who supports the strikers, has found herself in a bind. City Hall refused orders to get the trucks out, saying it’s not their job. The police prefecture then ordered garages unblocked. Using private companies, garbage has been collected in “highly impacted” districts, City Hall said. There are problems dumping the garbage in blocked incinerator plants. Still, City Hall said that as of Monday, 9,300 tons of rubbish remained on the streets, down from 10,000 days ago.

Workers in numerous sectors, from transportation to energy, have been holding intermittent strikes since January. But it is the garbage in the French capital that has made garbage collectors, long taken for granted, visible — and their anger obvious.

WORLD BRIEFS

US: War crimes on all sides in Ethiopia’s Tigray conflict

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration announced Monday that it has determined all sides in the brutal conflict in Ethiopia’s northern Tigray region committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. The move carries no immediate U.S. policy implications but lends weight to calls for such allegations to be prosecuted. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the determination less than a week after he returned from a visit to Ethiopia during which he met with Ethiopian government and Tigrayan officials as well as victims of the conflict, but said little about the U.S. view of prospects for accountability. His determination covers members of the Ethiopian and Eritrean national armies as well as the Tigray People’s Liberation Front and forces aligned with the Amhara region. Blinken said those responsible for atrocities must be held accountable.

Top Israeli minister: ‘No such thing’ as Palestinian people

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—A firebrand Israeli minister claimed there’s “no such thing” as a Palestinian people as Israel’s new coalition government, its most hard-line ever, plowed ahead on Monday with a part of its plan to overhaul the judiciary. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition said it was pushing a key part of the overhaul — which would give the coalition control over who becomes a justice or a judge — before the parliament takes a monthlong holiday break next week. The development came a day after an Israeli and Palestinian delegation at a meeting in Egypt, mediated by Egyptian, Jordanian and U.S. officials, pledged to take steps to lower tensions roiling the region ahead of a sensitive holiday season.

Ignoring experts, China’s sudden zero COVID exit cost lives

BEIJING (AP)—When China suddenly scrapped onerous zero-COVID measures in December, the country wasn’t ready for a massive onslaught of cases. Hospitals turned away

ambulances, crematoriums burned bodies around the clock, and relatives hauled dead loved ones to warehouses for lack of storage space. Chinese state media claimed the decision to open up was based on “scientific analysis and shrewd calculation,” and “by no means impulsive.” But in reality, China’s ruling Communist Party ignored repeated efforts by top medical experts to kick-start exit plans until it was too late, The Associated Press has found. Instead, the reopening came suddenly at the onset of winter, when the virus spreads most easily. Many older people weren’t vaccinated, pharmacies lacked antivirals, and hospitals didn’t have adequate supplies or staff — leading to as many as hundreds of thousands of deaths that could have been avoided, according to academic modeling, more than 20 interviews with current and former China Center for Disease Control and Prevention employees, experts and government advisors, and internal reports and directives obtained by the AP.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Daniel Pangelinan Delos Santos

Lovingly known as “Danate Bolis”
April 5, 1938 – March 16, 2023

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents:	+Pablo Villagomez +Josepha Pangelinan Delos Santos
Wife:	+Maria Masga Delos Santos
Son:	+Martin Juan Mafnas +Juan Masga Delos Santos
Granddaughter:	+Vicky Jean Castro
Siblings:	+Lucia Pangelinan Delos Reyes +Sabina Pangelinan Delos Reyes +Jose Pangelinan Delos Reyes +Vicente Pangelinan Delos Reyes +Pedro Pangelinan Delos Santos +Jesus Pangelinan Delos Santos +Juan Pangelinan Delos Santos

His spirit, laughter, and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Mennie Martin Delos Santos
Siblings:	Dolores Delos Santos and Joaquin Castro Joaquin Delos Santos and Maria Celis Delos Santos
Children:	Paula M. Delos Santos Antonia M. Delos Santos and children Priscilla M. Delos Santos and children Anthony M. Delos Santos/ Cherie V. Manalo and children Jerry M. and Aguida Manalo Delos Santos and children Daniel Jr. M. Delos Santos

He will be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives, and friends.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each night at 6:00 pm at St. Jude Church.
Funeral and Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Response, viewing, and last respect will begin at 8:00 am.
Mass of Christian will be celebrated at 10:00 am. Christian Burial will follow immediately after the Mass.

**Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu’us Ma’ase.
The Family**

Good Housekeeping

A guide to decorating with florals



HANDOUT/TNS

Selecting the right vessel for a floral arrangement is just as important as choosing the right stems.



HANDOUT/TNS

If you are looking to add a touch of elegance and sophistication to your room, look no further than a potted orchid.



HANDOUT/TNS

From bold and dramatic to soft and subtle, floral prints and arrangements can add color, texture and visual interest to any room.

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Florals are a timeless and versatile element that can enhance just about any interior aesthetic. From bold and dramatic to soft and subtle, floral prints and arrangements can add color, texture and visual interest to any room. However, incorporating florals into your home decor can be daunting, especially if you're not sure where to start.

Whether you're a seasoned decorator or a beginner, this comprehensive guide to decorating with florals will provide you with practical tips and inspiration to help you create a statement arrangement for the season or a beautiful and inviting floral-inspired home.

Choosing your vessel

Selecting the right vessel for a floral arrangement is just as important as choosing the right stems. The vase or container you choose can make or break the overall look and feel of your arrangement, so it's important to consider factors such as size, shape, color and

texture. A good rule of thumb is to choose a vessel that complements the style and color scheme of your flowers while also being appropriate for the occasion and setting.

When selecting a vessel for a floral arrangement, consider the size and shape of your blooms. Large, full arrangements may require a wider, more substantial vessel to support the weight of the flowers, while smaller, more delicate arrangements may benefit from a smaller, more compact vase. The color and texture of the vessel can also play an important role in the overall aesthetic of your arrangement. A simple glass vase can create a classic and elegant look, while a textured ceramic or metal vessel can add a more rustic or industrial feel. Ultimately, the vessel you choose should enhance the beauty of your flowers and complement the overall style and ambiance of your home.

Creating a permanent botanical arrangement

Faux flowers offer several

benefits over fresh stems. For one, they last much longer and can be enjoyed for years rather than just a few days. Additionally, faux flowers require no maintenance like watering or pruning, and they can be easily dusted or cleaned with a damp cloth. Faux florals also offer more versatility in terms of colors and styles, and they can be found in almost any variety of flower imaginable.

But what I love most is that they can be arranged and rearranged in endless combinations. Arranging your permanent florals is a much more forgiving process than arranging live ones, I've found, and following these steps for a fool-proof arrangement every time.

1. Prep your vessel: Determine if your container needs a little prep work before you start inserting stems. If you have a wide opening, you may need to create a grid with floral tape to keep stems in place. You can do this by placing a few strips of tape across the opening about 1 inch apart. Repeat the process

with new strips running perpendicular to the first set of strips.

2. Begin arranging: Start with the largest and most dominant flowers and stems, and insert them into the vessel at varying angles. Create a "frame" with your sturdiest branches. Try to create a balanced look by distributing the elements evenly throughout the arrangement.

3. Add in filler flowers and greenery: Once you've added the dominant flowers, fill in the gaps with smaller blooms and greenery.

4. Create depth and dimension: If your arrangement has a front and back (meaning it will be placed in a spot where it won't be seen from one side), add taller flowers or greenery toward the back and shorter stems toward the front. If your arrangement is going to be viewable on all sides, keep your taller pieces in the center, and the edges lower.

5. Finish with the final touches: Step back and assess your arrangement, and

adjust any flowers as needed.

An orchid adds sophistication

If you are looking to add a touch of elegance and sophistication to your room, look no further than a potted orchid. Its delicate and graceful blooms, vibrant colors and unique shapes create a striking focal point that draws the eye and enhances the visual appeal of the space. On their own, they're a perfect addition to a simple vignette, or if you'd like to add a little drama to a room, consider a pair of symmetrically placed orchids.

Tulips add a touch of elegance

Tulips come in a variety of colors, so you can choose the perfect shade to complement your decor. For a simple yet stylish arrangement, place a few tulips in a tall vase and let their long stems create graceful lines. Or, mix and match different colors and types of tulips in a low vase or bowl for a more eclectic look. Tulips are also versatile enough to work well in both modern and traditional settings. Whether you're decorating a dining room table, a mantel or a bedside table, a vase of tulips is sure to brighten up the space and bring a touch of springtime indoors.

Decorating with greenery

I love the look of wild and bright greenery for spring. That pop of color pairs well with just about everything, but I especially love the way it looks with blue and white. Greenery is so versatile and works well on its own, but it also creates arrangements full of depth and dimension when mixed and

matched. From bushy eucalyptus fronds to bold and beautiful monstera leaves, greenery is more than just filler.

Creating organic-looking arrangements

Creating whimsical organic-looking floral arrangements is all about embracing the natural beauty and textures of your flowers. Start by choosing blooms that tend to have a wilder appearance, such as roses, ranunculus or wildflowers. You can also add in interesting elements such as branches, vines or dried grasses to create a more rustic and natural feel. When arranging your flowers, aim for a loose and unstructured look, with some stems sticking out at different angles and varying heights.

To create an arrangement truly inspired by nature, it's important to pay attention to the textures and colors of your blooms. Mix and match different textures, such as smooth and shiny petals with rough and fuzzy foliage, to create depth and interest. Don't be afraid to mix and match colors as well, such as soft pastels with bright pops of color.

When arranging your flowers, start with the larger blooms and work your way down, filling in the gaps with smaller flowers and greenery. Remember, the key to an organic-looking arrangement is to let go of perfection and embrace the natural beauty of your blooms.

By following some of the tips and tricks outlined in this guide, you can create stunning arrangements that enhance the style and ambiance of your space. Experiment with different colors, textures and styles, and have fun exploring the endless possibilities florals have to offer.

Life & Style

Anthony Fauci documentary on PBS covers a career of crises

NEW YORK (AP)—There's a moment in the new PBS documentary about Dr. Anthony Fauci when a protester holds up a handmade sign reading, "Dr. Fauci, You Are Killing Us."

It says something about Fauci that it's not initially clear when that sign was waved in anger—in the 1980s as AIDS made its deadly rise or in the 2020s with COVID-19 vaccine opponents.

"American Masters: Dr. Tony Fauci," offers a portrait of an unlikely lightning rod: A government infectious disease scientist who advised seven presidents. Fauci hopes it can inspire more public servants like him.

"I just felt that there needed to be a story of people understanding what public health officials go through, but also I hope as a source of inspira-

tion for young people who are either in science or interested in going into science," he told The Associated Press. The documentary airs Tuesday and later streams.

Fauci allowed a film crew to follow him for 23 months starting in January 2021. The documentary covers his career and its crises, especially the way COVID-19 was handled by the Trump administration.

"When you talk about all of the different things coming together for a disaster, that's what happened: A divided country, a president who amplified the division and then a public health crisis—you couldn't ask for a worse combination of things," he said.

Director Mark Mannucci



Fauci

offers an intimate look at his subject, with images of Fauci running from meeting to meeting and wolfing down Wheat Thins between Zooms. His wife attests to the stress by pointing out their security detail due to threats.

"The story illuminates—and he'd be the first to say it—some very dark stuff about this country and how a person who has devoted his life to helping individuals got so twisted in this current climate," said Mannucci.

Michael Kantor, executive producer for the American Masters series, says Fauci is a figure who has been central to American life for decades and deserves an examination, even if some virulently oppose him.

"Dr. Fauci is a very contro-

versial figure, and there are going to be people who are going to voice—just as in the film—great displeasure about what he's done and about his approach to things. But isn't that the whole point of public media? It is intended to make that conversation happen in the best possible way."

COVID-19 may have introduced Fauci to millions of Americans, but his long career at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases was marked by numerous previous health scares, among them HIV, SARS, MERS, Ebola and even the nation's 2001 anthrax attacks.

The film shows that Fauci learned a lesson in humility with AIDS, as the disease stubbornly persisted and activists argued not enough was being done from the government. "I went from a world of

success and gratification to a world of frustration and failure," he says in the film.

Mannucci's camera flashes forward to today, with Fauci cordially meeting up with the former AIDS activists who once decried him. They have long since reconciled; they were all on the same side, after all—science.

"I put aside the confrontational behavior and the attacks on me and listen to what they were saying," Fauci explained in the interview. "And what they were saying was making perfect sense. It made me feel if I were in their shoes, I'd be doing exactly what they were doing."

That's not the case when protesters in recent years began attacking Fauci for mask mandates, school closures, quarantines and bizarre claims about the

COVID-19 vaccines.

"There's one sign that says, 'Fauci, You're Killing Us' and the other sign that says 'Fauci, You're Killing Us' but the rationale for those from the 1980s to 2023 is enormously different," Fauci said. "They couldn't be more different."

In one remarkable sequence in the documentary, Mannucci presses Fauci on whether he might have handled things differently looking back—like asking Americans to adopt masks sooner or ordering quarantines faster. "Maybe I should have done that," he says. "Yeah, I was wrong."

Mannucci relied on 10 long sit-downs with Fauci to develop trust with his subject and didn't clutter the documentary with testimonials from talking heads, wanting to focus on Fauci's experiences.

"I hope it's not viewed as a partisan message, but as a portrait of who he is and what he went through," said the director. "I hope that people on the other side, even if they never end up agreeing with him, will at least see somebody who is a real person, who's a thinking person, who's somebody maybe they can even relate to."

The film ends with Fauci's retirement from the NIAID late last year. Kantor suspects only time will tell where history will judge a man who dedicated his life to public service.

"I think 10 years from now, hopefully the furor over him as a controversial figure will die down. But the legacy of the approach to pandemics and so on will still be super valuable," he said.

Jury convicts 3 of murder in death of rapper XXXTentacion

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Three men were found guilty of first-degree murder on Monday in the 2018 killing of star rapper XXXTentacion, who was shot outside a South Florida motorcycle shop while being robbed of \$50,000.

Michael Boatwright, 28, Dedrick Williams, 26, and Trayvon Newsome, 24, were also convicted of armed robbery by a jury that rendered its verdict less than an hour after beginning its eighth day of deliberations.

Their sentencing, which Circuit Judge Michael Usan set for April 6, will largely be a formality; Florida law dictates a life sentence for first-degree

murder convictions.

The defendants, two dressed in suits and one in a button-down shirt, showed little emotion as they stood one by one to be handcuffed by a bailiff. There was no audible reaction from family members and other observers in the courtroom. Before the verdicts were read, Usan warned that anyone who caused any kind of disruption would be held in contempt of court.

The Broward State Attorney's Office thanked the jurors and prosecutors in a statement but said it would not comment further until the sentencing.

Williams' attorney, Mauri-

cio Padilla, told The Associated Press that he doesn't feel his client was afforded a fair trial. He noted that a crucial defense witness was stricken and that he was prohibited from deposing a key witness. Phone messages were left with attorneys representing Boatwright and Newsome.

"It is obvious from the days the jury was deliberating that they had questions and I only wish I would have been able to properly defend my client," Padilla said in an email.

During the monthlong trial, prosecutors linked Boatwright, Williams and Newsome to the June 18, 2018, shooting outside

Riva Motorsports in suburban Fort Lauderdale through extensive surveillance video taken inside and outside the store, plus cellphone videos the men took showing them flashing fistfuls of \$100 bills hours after the slaying.

Prosecutors also had the testimony of a fourth man, Robert Allen, a former friend of the defendants who said he participated in the robbery. He pleaded guilty last year to second-degree murder. He has not been sentenced pending the conclusion of this trial. He could get anywhere between time served, meaning he could soon be released, and life, depending part-

ly on how much weight prosecutors give to his assistance.

Defense attorneys accused Allen of being a liar who was motivated by his desire to avoid a life sentence. They also said prosecutors and detectives did a poor investigation that didn't look at other possible suspects, including the Canadian rap star Drake; he and XXXTentacion had an online feud.

Boatwright was identified as the primary shooter. Twice last week, the jury asked to review 17 text messages that prosecutors said he sent to various people from the time he woke up about 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., about an hour before the shooting. He then stopped texting for about two hours.

Woman might double down on romance with gambler

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband and I separated two months after our wedding. Our divorce was final five months ago. After I left him, I started talking to a younger guy I had a lot in common with. However, he has a gambling problem and ended up stealing money from my cash app.

He eventually paid me back and has done everything in his power to get me to trust him again. We are both VERY attracted to each other. After he repaid the money, he told me he was in a very dark place and felt horrible about doing it.

He says he loves me, and even though I tried fighting it, I love him too. But there are issues -- the trust, the gambling and the age gap. I'm 15 years older. He's still very young, and I know when I was his age, I wanted different things than I want now. I'm worried he'll lose interest in me because we are at different points in our lives.

We aren't exactly labeled a couple but we act like we are. No one but very close friends of mine knows about our situation. Should I cut ties before my heart gets broken?

TENTATIVE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR TENTATIVE: The age difference may not be a deal-breaker, but the fact that he stole from you should be. How is he dealing with his gambling addiction? Is he still gambling? Has he joined a support group such as Gamblers Anonymous to help him cope with it? Because you

divorced after only two months of marriage—and now this—there may be something wrong with your "manpicker." Before you make any more big decisions about men, I suggest that you talk to a psychologist about why you seem to be rushing in and out of relationships.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I just found out my husband and our female friend of 18 months have been texting each other. Allegedly, according to my husband, it's about politics. My husband and I don't share the same political views. He says he has nobody to talk to about politics. I don't understand why he doesn't talk about politics with his male friends.

I find it suspicious that neither my husband nor this "friend" ever mentioned they were communicating with each other. I think he is going outside our marriage seeking validation from another woman. When I said it, he called me crazy, immature and insanely jealous. I'm not.

I think he's endangering our marriage because things can start innocently, and he's seeking something I can't give him. He knew my political affiliation before we married. Our marriage barely survived the last presidential election. Now this. Can I have some advice, please?

UNEASY IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNEASY: You're not crazy, immature or jealous. You are a wife who is worried that her marriage is

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



in jeopardy. If the three of you socialize together and the subject of politics comes up, engage with them diplomatically without allowing the conversation to degenerate into an argument. And suggest to your husband privately that since the texts are "only political" in nature, you would like to be able to look at them occasionally.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

MISS WORMWOOD, I PROTEST THIS "C" GRADE! THAT'S SAYING I ONLY DID AN "AVERAGE" JOB!

I GOT 75% OF THE ANSWERS CORRECT, AND IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, DOING SOMETHING 75% RIGHT IS OUTSTANDING! IF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY WERE 75% COMPETENT, WE'D BE ECSTATIC!

I WON'T STAND FOR THIS ARTIFICIAL STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE! I DEMAND AN "A" FOR THIS KIND OF WORK!

I THINK IT'S REALLY GROSS HOW SHE DRINKS MAALOX STRAIGHT FROM THE BOTTLE.

Garfield®

I HAVE A NEW WORKOUT SCHEDULE

BOOT!

IT'S LEG DAY!

Adam@home

CAN I GET AN IGUANA?

NO.

IS THIS BECAUSE THAT FOXTROT KID HAS ONE?

HOW ABOUT A KOMODO DRAGON?

YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION.

The Duplex

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

IT'S A SHOW ABOUT MOUNT VESUVIUS AND HOW ITS ERUPTION SPREWED LAVA EVERYWHERE, BURYING PEOPLE IN IT.

I THINK I BETTER GO TURN DOWN THE PASTA SAUCE ON THE STOVE.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

28 Country store?

30 Abysmal

33 2015

4 Elev.

7 Zwei

8 Region of ancient Greece

10 Hive

11 Yam color

13 Pulitzer-winning novel by Edward P. Jones

16 Snake's warning

17 Bridge call

18 Shoe width

19 Tip off

20 Pleads

21 Verse

23 Garish

25 Chicago paper, briefly

26 Phoenix cagers

27 "You've got mail" co.

DOWN

1 Grove

2 Timid

3 Colorful blooms

4 Features of unicorns

5 Chews (on)

6 Ex-

7 "Stupid me!"

8 Hawk-eye

9 Con-curred

10 Gal.

12 Melan-choly

14 Grand Ole —

15 —

19 Char-lotte's creation

20 Train alter-native

21 Pleased with oneself

22 Mas-seur's offering

23 Avocado dip, for short

24 Re-sponds

25 Mahal

26 Pares (down)

28 Camp-fire

29 Despot

30 Trade-mark

31 To boot

32 HST

34 Vicinity

35 Twist-able cookie

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Constance Wu, 41; Reese Witherspoon, 47; Elvis Stojko, 51; William Shatner, 92.

Happy Birthday: A ruthless approach to getting your house in order will be comforting once you start. Clear a passage that offers greater freedom to come and go as you please. Pay it forward by giving away items that can benefit someone in need. Make it a point to give back to your community. Address issues that make you angry, and strive for financial security. Your numbers are 8, 11, 20, 28, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your energy where it counts and progress to the next level. Plan your strategy from beginning to end to avoid setbacks or surprises. A financial gain or change in how you handle money matters will open your options.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look inward and consider the changes you want and how to achieve your goal. A secretive approach will help ward off any interference and give you time to investigate the possibilities. Stick to the rules and commit to the plan.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Connect with people who can offer as much as you can. Don't disguise your intentions. Be precise regarding your needs and be ready to move on if you can't agree or get your way. Don't limit your chance to advance to spare someone's feelings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Hide in a secure spot and avoid conflict. Take time to decide what you want before you let others pressure you to fall in line and allocate your time to benefiting them instead of you. Personal growth will lead to financial gain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Talks, lectures and new beginnings go together. Refuse to take a back seat to someone trying to dominate your time. Step into the fast lane and travel in a direction that offers hope for what you want to transpire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of scenery is encouraged. Personal growth, physical improvements or rethinking the best way forward will bring you one step closer to a place that makes you feel happy and content. A kind word will bring you closer to someone you love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make your life more meaningful by being precise regarding what you want. Handle a proposal that comes from the heart with sensitivity and goodwill. Articulate what you are willing to do to keep the peace and make things happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make security your top priority. Protect against unwanted change or letting others take up too much of your time. Someone looking for an excuse to say no to a request will pretend to misconstrue your gesture or remark.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put upset or anger aside and shoot for the stars. Look at the bright side of your situation, and you'll discover how to get what you desire. Don't limit what you can do because someone tries to put demands on you.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Too much of anything will weigh you down. Discarding what you no longer need will lead to positive lifestyle changes. Put a budget in place that helps you maintain your status quo or save for something unique.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep an open mind, but don't give in to pressure. Go about your business and offer others the freedom to do as they please. The less friction, the easier it is to get things done your way. Protect your health and financial well-being.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Misinformation will cause a ripple in your personal life. Confirm any information about your residence, living arrangements or relationships with friends, family or your lover. It's better to get facts before airing your concerns or starting a feud.

Birthday Baby: You are protective, intuitive and enthusiastic. You are outspoken and opportunity driven.

©: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ©©: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ©©©: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ©©©©: Aim high; start new projects. ©©©©©: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty: ★★★

3-22

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE OVERTON WINDOW Solution: 6 letters

MEETING MURTCEPS OPTCRECALPKROWM DWOOLOOHC SNLAAR EAVNTOPICOLLEEO LGPSITOPILERIGN DEOIMARTULTENNE NDPDETFEBSXFLGAL AUUEEEFCANIXFLIRB TTLRLBKIDDEEAAA SIAEBNAEHESCPDT RTRPIMMTC SMTMIP ET LHSINVESTIACE D A TYNNNOIPMAHCAC N NYTEICOSOCIALC UREASON YLBMESSA

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Academic, Acceptable, Assembly, Attitude, Campaign, Champion, Consider, Debate, Election, Invest, Laws, Mainstream, Media, Meeting, Model, Norms, Plan, Poll, Popular, Radical, Range, Reason, Reflect, School, Sensible, Shift, Social, Society, Spectrum, Support, Taxes, Time, Topic, Trend, Understand, Unthinkable, Vote, Wage, Workplace

Yesterday's Answer: Telemarketers

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Warriors stop 11-game road skid, beat Rockets, 121-108



H O U S T O N (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 30 points and Klay Thompson added 29 as the Golden State Warriors snapped an 11-game road skid with a 121-108 win over the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

The game was close most of the way before the Warriors used a 12-2 spurt early in the fourth quarter to pull away and hold on for their first win away from home since Jan. 30 at Oklahoma City.

The Warriors, who entered the game seventh in the Western Conference, have been great at home this season (29-7) but have struggled on the road, where Monday's win improved them to just 8-29.

The Western Conference-worst Rockets got 21 points and 12 rebounds from Tari Eason.

TIMBERWOLVES 140, KNICKS 134

NEW YORK (AP)—Julius Randle scored 57 points to tie the third-highest total in Knicks history, but Minnesota rode a sizzling start and a steady finish to beat New York.

Taurean Prince scored a season-high 35 points and went 8 for 8 from 3-point range for the Timberwolves, while Mike Conley added 24 points and 11 assists. His three free throws gave Minnesota the lead for good with 2:17 remaining.

The Timberwolves made more than 70% of their shots in the first half and led by 17 before Randle carried the Knicks back with a franchise-record 26 points in the third quarter.

He finished tied with Richie Guerin behind the only two



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket as Houston Rockets' Jabari Smith Jr. defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 20, 2023, in Houston.

60-point games in Knicks history, Carmelo Anthony's 62 on Jan. 24, 2014, and Bernard King's 60 on Christmas Day in 1984. But the Knicks had their three-game winning streak snapped.

BULLS 109, 76ERS 105, 2 OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 26 points, DeMar DeRozan had 25 and Chicago defeated Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers in double overtime to snap their eight-game winning streak.

Nikola Vucevic added 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who have won three games in a row and five of six. Chicago is fighting for the final playoff spot in the East.

Embiid had 37 points, 16 rebounds and three blocks before fouling out with 3:54 left in the second overtime. It was the 10th straight game in which he has scored at least 30 points.

Philadelphia could've clinched a playoff spot with a victory, but the 76ers struggled once Embiid left the court after a foul on LaVine.

GRIZZLIES 112, MAVERICKS 108

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 28 points, including a key layup with 17 seconds left as Memphis defeated Dallas in Ja Morant's first game back with the team after an eight-game NBA suspension.

Santi Aldama added 22 for the Grizzlies and Desmond Bane finished with 17 as Memphis won for the sixth time in seven games.

Kyrie Irving led the Mavericks with 28 points, but missed all eight of his shots

in the fourth quarter as Memphis outscored Dallas 29-12 in the period.

Morant did not dress for the game but was on the Memphis bench, coming out to a hearty ovation from fans just before tipoff. The NBA assessed the suspension after a video from a Denver-area strip club earlier this month showed Morant brandishing a gun.

Meanwhile, the Mavericks were again without leading-scorer Luka Doncic, who missed his fifth game with left thigh soreness.

JAZZ 128, KINGS 120

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Ochai Agbaji scored a career-high 27 points, including six 3-pointers, to lead Utah over Sacramento.

Kelly Olynyk had 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Jazz. Kris Dunn added 18 points and 10 assists. Udoka Azubuike chipped in with a career-high 13 points and a season-best eight rebounds.

Eight players scored in double figures for the Jazz, who shot 52% from the field.

De'Aaron Fox had 37 points and seven assists to lead the Kings. Keegan Murray added 22 points.

HORNETS 115, PACERS 109

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 28 points and Charlotte erased a 21-point first-half deficit to beat Indiana and stop a six-game home losing streak.

Terry Rozier added 23 points and Gordon Hayward had 22 for the Hornets, who outscored the Pacers 19-4 over the final six minutes to deal their postseason hopes a significant blow.

Nick Richards was strong in the second half for Charlotte, finishing with 14 points and 17 rebounds.

Myles Turner and Buddy Hield each had 20 points for the Pacers, who entered the night 1 1/2 games behind Chicago for 10th place in the Eastern Conference standings.

The Hornets trailed 105-96 with 6:23 left but a 13-0 run put them in control as the Pacers went scoreless for more than five minutes.

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Ja Morant's eight-game NBA suspension is over, and the two-time All-Star has rejoined the Memphis Grizzlies.

The dynamic guard was on the bench for Monday night's game against Dallas, though it's unclear exactly when he'll play, with the earliest being Wednesday. The Grizzlies announced Sunday that Morant would not play against the Mavericks because of a "Return to Competition Reconditioning."

He arrived courtside just before tip-off and received a hearty ovation from the Memphis crowd. He then slapped hands with some of his teammates and was part of the line greeting starters as they prepared to begin the game.

"He is going to be part of practice (Tuesday), and obviously we're hopeful for

Ja Morant ready to rejoin Grizzlies, NBA suspension over

Wednesday so long as everything medically clears out," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said, adding the delay is part of the "ramp-up process."

The Grizzlies host Houston on Wednesday in the first of two consecutive games against the Rockets in Memphis.

The Grizzlies know Morant has been working out, trying to be ready for this moment. Memphis was off Sunday after back-to-back wins, and Jenkins said he would like Morant to practice or at least participate in a shootaround before seeing game action.

Morant first stepped away from the team March 4, hours after he livestreamed himself on Instagram displaying a gun at strip club in Colorado following a game against the Denver Nuggets. The Grizzlies said on March 8 that Morant

would be sidelined for four more games.

Morant met with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in New York before the NBA announced his suspension last week, including six games he already had missed.

The league investigation found that Morant was "holding a firearm in an intoxicated state"—but did not prove the gun was owned by Morant "or was displayed by him beyond a brief period." The NBA also did not find that Morant had the gun with him on Memphis' flight to Denver, or that he possessed the gun in any NBA facility.

Police in Colorado conducted their own investigation and concluded there was no reason to charge Morant with a crime after looking into the circumstances surrounding the video.

Morant said in an ESPN interview that the gun was not his and that he takes full responsibility for his actions.

But the strip club incident wasn't Morant's first eyebrow-raising move. The Grizzlies had been talking with Morant about his off-court conduct even before the March 4 incident.

"I can see the image that I painted over myself with my recent mistakes," Morant told ESPN. "But in the future, I'm going to show everybody who Ja really is, what I'm about and change this narrative that everybody got."

Morant, whose suspension cost him \$669,000 in salary and possibly a chance to max out the five-year contract he signed last July by making the All-NBA team, also has to keep working on himself away

from basketball.

Morant said he underwent counseling during his suspension.

"He'd probably be the first one to tell you: 'Nothing is going to change immediately overnight. I'm going to learn and grow, but I'm going to get the skills and methods to do that both personally and professionally,'" Jenkins said.

On the court, the Grizzlies are pleased with the growth of the 23-year-old Morant. After Memphis selected him with the No. 2 draft pick in 2019, he was named the 2020 NBA Rookie of the Year and last year earned NBA Most Improved Player honors.

He is averaging 27.1 points and has six triple-doubles this season.

He rejoins a Memphis team in the middle of a competitive

postseason race. The Grizzlies, who were second in the Western Conference before the March 4 incident, are tied with Sacramento — four games back of West-leading Denver with 12 games remaining.

Jenkins knows Morant will be "chomping at the bit" to rejoin his teammates, but the Grizzlies have a plan ready for his return.

Jenkins said that all starts with what's in Morant's head and in his heart.

"He's doing a really good job recognizing the improvements he's making," the coach said, "and that he has to continue to make."

In his pregame comments before the game with Dallas on Monday, Jenkins seemed ready to move on as the Grizzlies prepare for the stretch run.

"Good first day back, and excited to have him back with the team," Jenkins said.

Ohtani, Japan rally in 9th, edge Mexico 6-5, reach WBC final



M I A M I
(AP)—When Shohei Ohtani reached second base after hitting a lead-

off double in the bottom of the ninth inning, he immediately looked up at the crowd and waved his arms, in a rare sign of emotion, as if he knew what was coming next.

Ohtani's clutch hit sparked a late rally, and moments later Munetaka Murakami delivered a walk-off, two-run double to lift Japan over Mexico 6-5 Monday night and into the World Baseball Classic final.

Two-time champion Japan will face the defending champion United States in Tuesday night's title game. Shota Imanaga will start for Japan — Yu Darvish had been set to pitch before a change was announced postgame. Merrill Kelly is likely to start for Team USA, which has won the WBC once.

After the game, members of Team Japan rushed the field in triumph, as Mexico players exited with their heads bowed and hands on their hips.

"These games are really critical and the foundation of baseball," Japan manager Hideki Kuriyama said through an interpreter.

Ohtani went 2 for 4. The Los Angeles Angels star scored in the seventh when Masataka Yoshida hit a tying, three-run homer off reliever JoJo Romero.

Ohtani's double off losing pitcher Giovanni Gallegos was his fourth of the tournament. He's batting .450 with nine hits, nine runs and eight RBIs. After Ohtani got the



Japan's Shohei Ohtani celebrates after a double during the ninth inning of a World Baseball Classic game against Mexico, Monday, March 20, 2023, in Miami.

rally started, Yoshida walked to bring up Murakami.

In front of a crowd of 35,933 that chanted "¡Si Se Puede!" — translating to "Yes We Can!" — throughout the night, left fielder Randy Arozarena had a signature performance for Mexico. He made a leaping catch in the fifth to preserve a 3-0 lead, signed a few mid-inning autographs, then doubled and scored in the eighth to make it 4-3.

"Randy was incredible to-

day," Mexico manager Benji Gil said. "He gave us the opportunity to come back to the game after a home run that many teams facing this kind of team with so many stars, they could have given up, but, no, he started this rally. We fought. Again, we took the lead. They are warriors."

The game began as a pitching duel between Rōki Sasaki and Patrick Sandoval, but Japan's offensive power proved too much for Mexico's

relievers.

Sasaki struck out three in four innings in his first appearance on a global stage.

Dozens of MLB club officials were in attendance scouting Sasaki, who's entry into the majors is all-but-certainly forthcoming in the future after he became a sensation last year in his second season with the Pacific League's Chiba Lotte Marines. Many are already mentioning the 21-year-old right-hander in the class

of his Samurai Japan teammate, Ohtani.

Twenty six of Sasaki's 64 pitches eclipsed 100 mph.

In the fourth, Luis Urías launched Sasaki's 90.8 mph cutter for a three-run homer to left-center field. The drive scored Rowdy Tellez and Isaac Paredes, who reached with two of the five hits Sasaki gave up.

Sandoval struck out six and allowed just four hits in four scoreless innings before he

was replaced by José Urquidy.

Japan, which trails only Cuba (64) and the U.S. (63) in hits during the tournament, had 10 Monday night, including Yoshida's home run off Romero's 2-2 changeup that sailed just inside the right field foul line.

Yoshida is about to start his first season in the major leagues with Boston. Over the weekend, Red Sox manager Alex Cora said Yoshida will start out as the team's clean-up hitter.

"I know my hand was a little shivering, but I know that there was a good connection," Yoshida said through a translator. "I believe in myself, and I remember I stepped into the box with a belief in myself."

Paredes gave Mexico a two-run cushion in the eighth when he singled to left field to drive in Jarren Duran. But Japan pulled within a run on a sacrifice fly by Hotaka Yamakawa that scored Takumu Nakano, who was pinch-running for Kazuma Okamoto.

Ohtani doesn't usually take batting practice on the field. He did Monday and smashed a ball with so much force that it soared above the second deck at loanDepot park and bounced off the video board, making a loud thud when it landed. Hundred of young fans gravitated toward the loanDepot Park sign where the ball was hit.

Arozarena wore a large sombrero and cowboy boots while shagging flies before the game, representing the country he settled in during his early 20s after he defected from Cuba. He also posed with Ohtani.

Confident Mayfield excited about fresh start with Buccaneers



TAMPA, Fla.
(AP) — Baker Mayfield is excited to have an opportunity to try to win Tom Brady's old job with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The No. 1 overall pick from the 2018 draft signed a one-year deal worth up to \$8.5 million in free agency and will compete with third-year pro Kyle Trask to become Brady's successor on a team two seasons removed from winning the Super Bowl.

"Listen, I'm never going to be Tom Brady. There's a reason he has won so many Super Bowls — he's the greatest of all time, there's no doubt about that. I'm not going to try and be Tom, I'm going to be me. That's what's gotten me to this point," Mayfield said Monday.

"We're going to do it differently, but that's what makes this league so special. Everybody puts their own touch on it. It's an honor to follow up

somebody like that," the former Cleveland, Carolina and Los Angeles Rams quarterback added.

"The people that have played with him around here, I'm going to pick their brains as to the things he did. There's no doubt about that. I'm excited."

Tampa Bay will be the third team Mayfield has played for since being traded from the Browns to the Panthers last July. He went 29-30 in four seasons in Cleveland, and was combined 2-8 as a starter while throwing for 2,163 yards, 10 touchdowns and eight interceptions with Carolina and Los Angeles in 2022.

Mayfield, who turns 28 next month, has thrown for 16,288 yards, 102 touchdowns and 64 interceptions over five seasons overall.

"It was important to me to be in a place that's stable and knows how to win, knows how to do it properly," the



New Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield answers a question during an NFL football news conference on Monday, March 20, 2023, in Tampa, Fla.

quarterback said of the decision to join the Bucs, who are retooling in the wake of Brady's retirement.

"I've gotten to see different things from my journey that is not exactly how I drew it up. It's helped along the way, especially in making a decision like this," Mayfield added. "I want to go somewhere where

we can win right away, and this is that place."

Brady led the Bucs to a Super Bowl title three seasons ago and consecutive NFC South titles the past two years.

The offense was not nearly as efficient in 2022, when Brady threw for the third-most yards in the NFL, but Tampa Bay scored just 18.4

points per game after averaging more than 30 the previous two seasons.

Mayfield is looking forward to competing with Trask, who's attempted just nine regular-season passes since being drafted in the second round in 2021, and working with a talented group of receivers that includes Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Russell Gage.

"Any time you get to play with playmakers like that, it obviously makes your job easier. They're so experienced, and they've seen a lot as well, so I'm excited to get the opportunity to play with them," Mayfield said.

He said he's also excited about joining new offensive coordinator Dave Canales, who moved to Tampa Bay from Seattle after helping Geno Smith jumpstart his career, earn NFL Comeback of the Year honors and land a big contract this offseason.

"In my short term of knowing Dave so far, just realizing who he is, how he's going to

tailor the offense to his playmakers — to me, that speaks volumes. You find a lot of guys that want to just run their system without really trying to play to the attributes of their players, and that's not Dave," Mayfield said.

Mayfield's best season was 2020, when the Browns went 11-5 and then won a playoff game. The fact he's on his fourth team in the past year speaks to how quickly his career shifted in another direction.

The 2017 Heisman Trophy winner remains confident in his ability.

"It's not how I drew my career up, by any means. If I were to tell you how it would go based on the plan, I wouldn't have said that I put on three different uniforms in the year 2022. But that's how it happens," Mayfield said. "I've grown a lot. I appreciate all the things that have happened throughout my journey, and it's helped me get here today."

BDE, Lady Blue Jays route foes in BASA

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team BDE and the Lady Blue Jays routed their foes in the continuation of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field last Sunday.

BDE had a tougher time against the Lady Legals, slipping past, 8-7, while the Lady Blue Jays outgunned the Hotshots, 14-2.

The earlier game between BDE and the Lady Legals found themselves evenly matched as both pitchers reduced the offense to as few hits as possible.

BDE was ahead by two in the third inning as the Lady Legals struggled to connect with the ball early on—only getting on base four times. The tides turned, however, as the Lady Legals' top of the lineup batter, Tiah Camacho, hit a home run, followed by a double by Lizann Deleon Guerrero, and was brought in by Pauline Camacho for a tied 3-3 game.

BDE pitcher Sonia Isaac managed to shut down the Lady Legals for two innings and with backup from her offense, pulled ahead to the lead by the sixth inning, 6-5.



LEIGH GASES
Lady Blue Jays Kiana "Baby K" Camacho connects with the ball during their game against Hotshots in their 14-2 win in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field last Sunday.

The Lady Legals, however, brought in two runs for a 7-6 game, but BDE in a last hurrah, scooped the W away in the last inning as fielding errors by the Lady Legals allowed BDE to score two—for a final score of 8-7.

In the afternoon game, the Lady Blue Jays scorched the Hotshots into oblivion as they ended the game early via the mercy-run rule.

Not only was the Lady Blue Jays' offense on fire, but their defense was as hot as the day was too.

The Hotshots came with bats at the ready—swinging at pitches and letting it fly,

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



A total of 109 participants registered for the 12th Annual Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School 5K Hope Run held last Sunday morning.

Runners made their way from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Trankun Da'uk pavilion in Susupe, with the proceeds of the race going toward the SDA Hope Run Scholarship which aids several students attending SDA School.

The Top 10 runners overall are James Abuy (23:59), Pony Tang (24:02), Taiga

109 runners join SDA 5K Hope Run



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
James Abuy, right, is the overall winner of the 12th Annual Seventh Day Adventist School 5K Hope Run with a time of 23:59 last Sunday morning at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Namai-Scoggins (25:00), Simon Necesito (25:24), Vhoie Francia (25:40), Eric Mahinay (27:02), Frank Diesta (29:28), Nelson Alliovida (30:46), Long Jiang Su (32:09), and Thai Ngyuen (32:21).

with \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively.

John L. Terlaje made history in Day 1 of the tourney when he hit a hole-in-one in hole No. 5 to win a brand new 2023 Hyundai IONIQ 5 SEL from Triple J Motors worth over \$60,000.

Results of the other divisions of the NMC Golf Open will be published in the next editions of the *Saipan Tribune*.

of them. We knew if we just kept the game within reach, we could use our depth and tire them out."

There are five seniors in the team but Wollack said that they still have a solid team back. "A lot of them I've been with for four years and it feels great to send off the seniors as champions."

He then thanked his wife for putting up with the crazy hours, the team manager, the other coaches, PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross, and the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

MHS 56 – David 20, Atan 13, Suba 7, Pelisamen Jr. 4, Mister 4, Escalada 3, Licayan 3, Lukas 2.

KHS – Aldan 14, Satur 14, Hocog and Ortiz 11, Dikito 3, Diaz 2.

Scoring by halves: 21-24, 56-55.

KIEFFER

From Page 20

Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort staff did a wonderful job of setting up the golf course and the NMC Foundation did a wonderful job setting up the golf tournament. We had a lot of very enthusiastic people to greet us and we had a lot of fun. It was a great day!"

For winning the Champion-

ship Flight, Kiefer pocketed \$500, which he said will be used to buy his plane ticket to Guam where he, like other NMC Golf Open flight winners, received an automatic free entry into the 2023 Tourism Cup.

Coming in second in the Championship Flight is Guam's Louie Sunga, who fired a 6-over 150, while Gi Yeong Kim completed the Top 3 with his 8-over 152. They

received \$300 and \$200, respectively, for their runner-up finishes.

In the A Flight, Ned Norita forever bid adieu to the division after shooting a 156. He was followed by Enoch Lim with his 164, which is the score posted by Kiwan "Michael" Nam. The former, however, edged the latter in scorecard tiebreaker. Like in the Championship Flight, A Flight winners went home

by the Dolphins' Airson Atan and Khristian David, they crept up to KHS' lead by 2, 47-45—and with two minutes left, MHS claimed the upper hand as Atan and Dylan Mister were fouled back-to-back, making it a 53-52 game.

KHS ruled the regular season coming out of it undefeated, only to lose in the playoffs, while MHS went undefeated in the playoffs and only needed to win Game 1 to clinch the title.

The Ayuyus found themselves in the losers bracket with a quarterfinal loss to the Dolphins, but found themselves face-to-face against them once again in the finals after they defeated Saipan Southern High School in the semis.

The Dolphins were handed their only loss in the regular season by the Ayuyus and Dan Wollack said for the playoffs,

"We changed how we played. We were not at all happy with our effort in the regular season game. We were playing a lot of individual ball offensively and defensively, we just didn't bring the intensity we needed to."

"They're a really good team," Wollack said about KHS. "They have some really good players and they scorched us, but sometimes a loss can be a good thing and we used that as fuel for the playoffs. We came back with a much better game plan and our players did a really good job of trusting each other, playing our offense, and playing our defense, and it showed up in our results."

In the finals with KHS in the lead for most of the game, Wollack said "One thing with our team is we're really confident in all our 14 players, so we can insert any

allowing the Lady Blue Jays to capitalize and storm home base multiple times.

The Lady Blue Jays' Rachel Salalila, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, and pitcher Bert Camacho herself had an RBI each.



Camacho pitched four scoreless innings as the Hotshots scrambled and struggled to get on base—thanks to the Lady Blue Jays' immaculate defense—and on the Hotshots' last chance to stay alive and extend the game, she pitched a 1-2-3 no-no for the early W.

Results of the men's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

15 to 19 age group male is Pony Tang and female is Kyle Diesta; 20 to 29 male is Simon Necesito and female is Sheila Awitan; 30 to 39 age group male is Long Jiang Su and female is Kris Romero; 40 to 49 age group male is Vhoie Francia and female is Sheila Mabutas; 50 to 59 male is James Abuy and female is Eva Awitan; 60-and-up male is Frank Diesta and female is Arpa Anugera.

The sponsors of the event are the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Joy FM 89.9, Coca-Cola, Foremost, McDonald's, AB Risk Solutions, Goris Missions, Kensington Hotel Saipan, J.C. Tenorio Ent., MARPAC, Cafe Mango Six, National Office Supply, PHI Pharmacy, Ace Hardware, Herman's Bakery, LSG Sky Chefs, Hardt Eye Clinic, The Water Company, Lollipops, and Transamerica.

CUKI

From Page 20

scores in both heats for 50 points. His sons—Shane and Alvarick—actually finished second and third with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

He attributed his latest win to his spanking new bike.

"I would again definitely say it's the new Kawasaki KX250F bikes from Cycles Plus Guam. They sponsor both Shane and I and we both love the new bikes. Shane raced his new 2023 model yesterday for the first time, so he's still adapting to the new feel of the bike. I love the handling and the power of the bike. It's less powerful than the 450cc I raced last year, so it is much easier to ride which translates to better results overall. The bike is easy to ride and fast and is perfect for the size track we have at Cowtown."

He also rated the Cowtown Race Track at a perfect 10.

"Expert Class racer and board member Ellery Cruz is a wizard on our skidsteer payload tractor and was able to smoothen out

some of the rough surfaces and reshape some of the jumps and berms that have been eaten up over time from constant wear and tear from all the bike tires tearing them up from so many races. So the track was very well groomed! And of course the Saipan Mayor's Office bush-cuts all the grass before our scheduled races, so it looked like a professionally prepared golf course," he said. "All the racers were happy with the track. Of course it was dusty as usual, but overall, it was great."

The elder Alvarez scored 50 points in the January race before coming up with 47 points last month.

In the Mini I Class, Elleayah Cruz won both heats for 50 points, followed by Kaleb Reyes with 44 points.

The March 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race was held a week early as riders of Marianas Racing Association are set to take part in Guam's Smoking Wheels set for April 22.

Results of the other divisions of the March MRA race will be published in the following issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

DOLPHINS

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and in the process was called for a violation—stepping out of the free throw line early after releasing the ball, giving possession to the Ayuyus.

However, with just one second left, KHS was left with an impossible task and Frankie Satur played catch and release—but it was an airball—handing the championships to MHS.

Heading into the second half, KHS had a 3-point lead and early on, the Ayuyus were in the lead with a 10-point advantage, 35-25. But, the upper hand slipped from their grasp as they made too many aggressive one-on-one plays, while the Dolphins had smooth ball movement and capitalized off the Ayuyus' errors.

With multiple shots made



**Warriors stop
11-game road skid,
beat Rockets,
121-108**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**BDE, Lady Blue Jays
route foes
in BASA**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kieffer is top golfer in NMC Golf Open

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's rare that a Championship Flight winner gets upstaged in the NMC Golf Open, but Dominic Kieffer is taking it all in stride.

The 29-year-old GHD Inc. staff engineer said while it would've been cool to win a brand new car, he's just happy to be progressing in his golf game after shooting a two-round score of 2-over 146 last Saturday and Sunday at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.

Kieffer went 4-over in Day 1 of the competition with a 76 after even 36s in the front nine and back nine, which included 10 pars.

The member of Sakati Golf Crew upped his game in Day 2, shooting a 2-under 70. He evened the first nine holes for a 36 before going on a hot streak on the second for a 34.

While he maintained his 10 pars, he supplemented it with birdies in holes No. 12, 14, 15 and an amazing eagle in hole No. 5.

"I made an eagle on hole No. 5. It's a short par-4 so I hit it up near the green and then chipped it in," he said.

Kieffer, who first picked up a golf club when he was just 3 years old, said the 2023 NMC Golf Open Tournament couldn't have been organized any better.

"It was fantastic. The golf course was in such good shape. The greens were very fast and I think all the players can attest that the pins were very difficult. But the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Championship Flight winner Dominic Kieffer chips in from the green in Day 2 of the NMC Golf Open last Sunday at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.

Dolphins win hoops title by 1 point



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas High School Dolphins varsity basketball team is the 2022-2023 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League champion after a free throw by Aiden Suba in the last seconds handed them the win, 56-55, over the Kagman High School Ayuyus in the MHS Gymnasium last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Dolphins pulled an upset against regular season topnotcher Kagman High School Ayuyus in a cliff-hanger championship game, 56-55, in the 2022-2023 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.



With the game tied at 55-55 in the last 16 seconds of the game, there was an infectious electricity in the air as MHS' Aiden Suba made

a beeline for the basket—and at just five seconds left, was fouled by Lucio Aldan.

The shotclock registered one crucial second left after the Dolphins called a timeout and Suba made the first

free throw for a 56-55 lead—welcomed by an eruption of cheers from the home crowd.

Suba then intentionally missed the second free throw

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Cuki crumbles opposition anew in Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Three monthly races and three checkered flag finishes for the monster of Marpi, Justis "Cuki" Alvarez.

The 52-year-old patriarch of the Alvarez motocross racing family swept the first three editions of the Expert Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race after dominating anew last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The boat captain stirred his land powerboat to perfect

See CUKI on Page 19



TISHA FERRER
Justis "Cuki" Alvarez has the pole position in the Expert Class of last Sunday's 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.